

BEIJING FLU

To jab or not to jab:
the vital background

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DOOMSDAY CULT

Casting light on the
end of the world?

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POP ON FRIDAY

Teenage Fanclub
hits the road

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30P

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'Total shambles' says Tory MP

Channel link opening put off until 2002

By TIM JONES
AND NICHOLAS WOOD

ANOTHER delay in the high-speed rail link between the Channel tunnel and London means the first trains are unlikely to run before 2002 — and the latest setback led to fears last night that the line might never be built at all.

With the tunnel due to open next year, vital decisions have still to be made on how the £3 billion rail line from Folkestone to London will be funded. John MacGregor said yesterday that the final route would be published in January, but he would not say how much money the government would put into the project.

The transport secretary's announcement provoked immediate angry accusations that the project had fallen victim to public spending cuts and was denounced by MPs of all parties, who demanded an end to the uncertainty surrounding the route. Sir Keith Speed, Conservative MP for Ashford, which is on both proposed routes, described it as "a bloody disgrace".

Transport sources conceded last night that spending pres-

■ The latest postponement of the Channel tunnel rail project has increased fears that the £3 billion high-speed link may never be built

sures had played a part in the announcement, but they insisted that the main reason for the delay was the complexity of the legislation needed. The bill will not be ready before next autumn and could take two years to get through Parliament. In the meantime, the government is to launch a competition to choose a private partner to design, build and operate the link. Tenders will be invited, with bidders stating how much government contribution they would require and how risks would be shared.

The bill had originally been expected to receive the royal assent in 1995, with the line being completed by 2000, but the new timetable means trains will almost certainly not run before 2002 at the earliest.

Sir Keith, who said the battle over the link had damaged his health, said last night: "This is a total shambles and a bloody disgrace. There might be a worse department in Europe, but it is difficult to think of one. We have been living with this farce for six years, but it seems the blight and uncertainty will continue for people living along the route. I now have serious doubts as to whether the line will ever be built."

Paul Channon, chairman of the transport select committee and a former Tory transport secretary, was also disappointed. "It will cause tremendous uncertainty for those who

don't know whether or not the link will affect them. The select committee may also feel that a Channel tunnel without a proper link for what may be very nearly ten years is unacceptable."

He was backed by Bob Dunn, chairman of the Conservative backbench transport committee, while Labour denounced the decision as a betrayal of the country's economic interests and the Liberal Democrats said the government was bent on repeating the on-off fiasco of the Jubilee line London Underground extension.

Frank Dobson, the shadow transport secretary, said: "The Tories are a government of oaths and blight. Like Midas in reverse, everything they touch turns to disaster." The Channel tunnel was supposed to provide Britain with fast, regular and reliable access to the European rail network, but without the link most of the benefits would be lost. "The first train from Paris is run to Calais at 180mph, through the tunnel at 85mph and from Dover to Waterloo at 47mph."

"The people of Kent and east London now face years of uncertainty and would be unable to sell their homes. For the families affected, the transport secretary will go down in history as MacGregor the blighter."

Nick Harvey, for the Liberal Democrats, said: "It appears the link is open for bids but not for business. The government announcement will prove to be futile unless they accept some of the real risks involved." Mr MacGregor had said earlier that the government was prepared to take a share of the risks, "for example, the legislative risks which are inherent in holding the competition before the link has been given statutory approval".

Until the line is built, trains from Folkestone will run into Waterloo on existing Network SouthEast lines. Senior British Rail managers believe that because the recession has cut passenger numbers, they will just about be able to cope."



The Queen Mother during yesterday's remembrance service at Westminster Abbey on the seventy-fifth anniversary of the Armistice

Queen Mother salutes Flanders' fallen

By JOE JOSEPH AND
JOHN YOUNG IN YPRES

CLUTCHING a rolled-up umbrella and her own teenage memories of the first world war, Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother led a moving remembrance service in Westminster Abbey yesterday to mark the 75th anniversary of the Armistice.

At Ypres, Belgium, under the great arches of the Menin Gate, old and young alike also joined in commemoration of the fallen in the fields of Flanders. The ceasefire ended a war in which 12 million died and which many thought so bloody it would put an end to all wars.

A thousand soldiers' backs stiffened as the *Last Post* echoed through the Abbey. Big Ben near by tolled the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month, exactly 75 years on from the signing of the Armistice.

In Ypres at the age of 100 Reg Glenn, from Sheffield, smiled and cheered happily while a few feet away eight-

year-old Damian Rhodes, from Nottingham, gazed wonderingly at the walls inscribed with the names of the 55,000 British and Commonwealth soldiers whose bodies were lost forever in the Flanders mud.

"I don't come here just to look at graves and to feel miserable," Mr Glenn said. "These are the names of my friends and comrades. I remember them as they were then, and they would like me to be having a good time."

Damian was with his

brother Tristan, 12, and sisters Kimberley, 11, and Kylie, 9. Their great-grandfather, Harold Hollis, served on the Western Front in the Great War and they were making their first visit with their parents to the battlefields and cemeteries.

Under a sunlit sky the clock in the tower of the rebuilt medieval Cloth Hall struck the 11th hour. The combined bands of the Cheshire and the Devon and Dorset regiments launched into Colonel Bogey leading

the Anglo-Belgian parade of veterans, uniformed servicemen and relatives.

Mr Glenn, who was commissioned in August 1918, did not talk of mud and rotting bodies, but of the fun he still gets from his annual pilgrimages. What was he doing on Armistice Day? "Oh, I was home wounded and was convalescing in Inverness, which was a nice long way from the action. I think we all got very drunk."

Photograph, page 24

Operation on Laura 'a mistake'

FROM BEN MACINTYRE
IN WASHINGTON

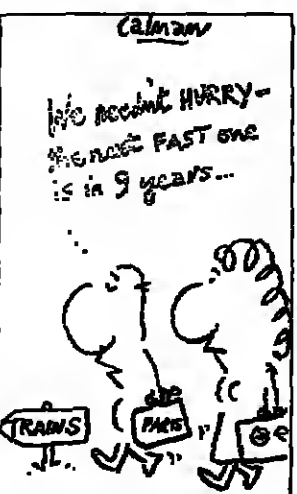
ANDREA Tkazik, the American surgeon who carried out the second multi-organ transplant on five-year-old Laura Davies, who died yesterday, said last night the second operation had been a mistake.

Laura died after her parents agreed to doctors switching off the ventilator at the Pittsburgh Children's hospital. Dr Tkazik said the "wonder-drug" FK-506, given to encourage the acceptance of transplanted organs, had broken down Laura's immune system, resulting in brain damage.

"We have been accused of inflicting unnecessary pain," he said. "In retrospect, since she died without any meaningful survival between the operation and last night, this criticism has proven to be correct."

The surgeon, plainly moved, said that Laura's death after initially favourable results had profoundly upset the team.

Support stopped, page 3



Shoppers will play UK's hi-tech lottery

By ALISON ROBERTS, ARTS REPORTER

BRITAIN'S £2 billion national lottery is to be played by way of computers able to process tickets in seconds. They will be based in shops which will pay out smaller wins on the spot, but the £1 million jackpot will be handed over in televised ceremonies.

Guidelines for groups preparing bids to run the lottery say it must be seen as "a tasteful and acceptable way to win money" and that it may become the "biggest in the world". A draft invitation to bid, published yesterday by Peter Davis, the lottery's director-general, provides details of its probable format.

Local shops will offer a variety of games, such as Lotto and scratch-cards with instant winners, and different levels of prizes. Retailers will be expected to pay out smaller cash sums, while jackpot winners will be televised receiving their cheques. Prizes not won will

be carried over, but for no more than three consecutive games.

A share of profits from television rights will have to be given to the causes which will benefit from lottery proceeds — the arts, sport, heritage, charities and the Millennium Fund.

The sale of tickets will not be allowed in the street, betting offices, amusement arcades, bingo or "gaming halls", private homes or at race tracks.

A "customers' charter" will set out the playing standards participants will be entitled to expect.

The director-general of the lottery will have wide powers of inspection and regulation.

The guidelines pay particular attention to consumer protection and to the prevention of lottery addiction. Game-

Museum's prize fly turns out to be fake

By NIGEL HAWKES
SCIENCE EDITOR

THE discovery that one of the Natural History Museum's prize specimens is a fake means that the history of the fly will have to be rewritten. Scientists had for years believed that the specimen fly, preserved in amber, was 38 million years old; but it is Victorian.

The fly has been discovered to be the work of a 19th-century faker, one of many catering for the lucrative Victorian market.

It is *Fannia scalaris*, the latrine fly, which is related closely to the modern house fly, according to Dr Richard Fortey, the museum's expert in fossil flies. "The next oldest fly of this type — and now the oldest — is only about a million years old," he said.

The fake was exposed by a doctoral student, Andrew Ross, who has been examining the museum's amber collection. He noticed a line running through the piece and found that a piece of Baltic amber had been cut in half, a depression cut in one half, and the pieces reassembled with the fly between.

The museum bought the fly among 300 specimens in 1922, from a German fly expert, H F Loew. It was studied in the 1960s by the entomologist Willi Hennig, who pointed out that it was unchanged by 38 million years. "People were puzzled by that," Dr Fortey said. "Species just don't have that kind of longevity."

Pennington, page 27

Adams angry as Clinton refuses to grant US visa

By NICHOLAS WATT, IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

GERRY Adams, the Sinn Féin president, reacted angrily last night to President Clinton's refusal to grant him an American visa on the ground that he was a leading IRA strategist.

Mr Adams claimed that his only connection with terrorism was his aim to prevent it and he accused Mr Clinton of falling for lies concocted by the British government. Mr Clinton outlined his objections to Mr Adams in a letter to David



Adams says Clinton fell for British lies

Dinkins, the outgoing mayor of New York, who had invited Mr Adams to America. He wrote: "Credible evidence exists that Adams remains involved at the highest level in devising IRA strategy. Moreover, despite his recent talks with Social Democratic and Labour Party leader John Hume, Adams still has not renounced terrorism."

The president cited the bombing in Shankill Road last month, which killed ten people, as an example of the "brutal and terrorist nature"

of the IRA. The bombing had undermined efforts to resume dialogue between Northern Ireland's parties, Mr Clinton added in the letter which was leaked to *The Irish Times*.

Mr Adams said that he would write to Mr Clinton and said: "It is a matter of concern, of course, that this black propaganda should be repeated by President Clinton as a spurious excuse for censoring Sinn Féin by visa denial."

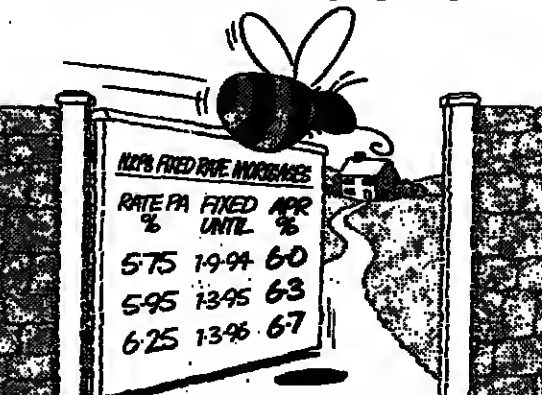
Mr Clinton's letter marks a hardening of his position towards Sinn Féin, and shows that London has a greater sway than the powerful Irish-American lobby. During last year's election, Mr Clinton said that if elected he would consider granting a visa to Mr Adams. Since then the Sinn Féin president has lost his seat at Westminster and the government has banned him from entering Britain.

Mr Adams also announced yesterday that he would be mounting a legal challenge to the ban, which was imposed last month on the ground that he was involved in the "commission, preparation or instigation of terrorism". He also defended his decision to carry the coffin of Thomas Begley, the IRA bomber who blew himself up after planting the Shankill bomb.

In an interview in the *Irish Times* he said: "I was aware it would create controversy, but what I am concerned about is trying to create circumstances in which there aren't any more Thomas Begleys."

Lobby's anger, page 2

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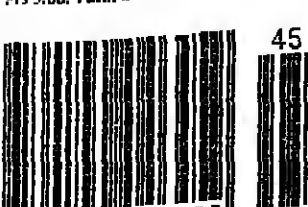
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Press response to Brooke

Editors could be sacked for breach of conduct code

BY ALEXANDRA FREAN, MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

NEWSPAPER editors could face dismissal for breaching the industry's code of conduct under new rules to be proposed by the Press Complaints Commission (PCC), which would make adherence to the code part of their contract of employment.

The measure marks the industry's first response to Peter Brooke, the heritage secretary, who has put the press on renewed notice that it faces restrictions if it is unable to make the "quantum leap" required to transform its system of self-regulation into one that is "credible" and "carries conviction".

In the wake of the row over the decision by the Mirror group to publish "peeping Tom" photographs of the Princess of Wales, one option gaining ground was for newspaper editors to meet representatives from Buckingham Palace in

received no formal approach from the newspaper industry.

The last time representatives of the media were called in by Buckingham Palace officials was in December 1981, when Michael Shea, then the Queen's press secretary, appealed to newspaper and broadcasting editors to allow the Princess of Wales more privacy during her first pregnancy.

As a first step, however, Sir David said he would be recommending to the commission's code committee, which he chairs, that it require all editors to bind themselves contractually to the PCC's code of conduct, so that any breach would become a sackable offence. Although the code was agreed by all editors, it is a voluntary document and not legally binding.

"If a maverick editor decided to do something that clearly broke the code, in defiance of his publisher, then he would immediately be liable to be sacked," he said.

Sir David added that Associated, which owns the *Daily Mail* and the *Mail on Sunday*, would be taking immediate steps to make the code part of the employment contracts of its editors. The practice of including the code has been pioneered by News International, owner of *The Times*, but has yet to become widespread in the industry.

While editors recognised Mr Brooke's willingness to discuss continued self-regulation, they gave a lukewarm reception to the minister's suggestions that the press should create a voluntary ombudsman to deal solely with matters of privacy and who would be empowered to recommend compensation.

Mr Preston, who is also a member of the PCC, said, however, that editors were keen to be seen to be "doing something" as soon as possible, to restore political and public confidence in self-regulation. A voluntary ombudsman for privacy might work, he said, as long as the post was part of the PCC. "We would have to make sure that such a system could be administered smoothly," he added.

Sir David rejected the idea of compensation for victims of privacy intrusion. "It would lead to thousands of false claims," he said.



Sir David: will put suggestion to PCC

order to discuss the issue of media intrusion into the private lives of the royal family.

Peter Preston, editor of *The Guardian*, said that such a meeting would go a long way to quell increasing political unrest about media intrusion, as most of the concern centred on stories about the royal family.

"I would welcome the opportunity for an animated discussion with Buckingham Palace on how the press is to cover the royal family. Since the palace is obviously so concerned about the issue, I think it would be constructive," he said.

Sir David English, chairman of Associated Newspapers, said: "Such a meeting certainly would be constructively good and might be constructive too."

A spokeswoman for Buckingham Palace said that it had

Irish-American lobby annoyed by visa decision

FROM IAN BRODIE IN WASHINGTON

PRESIDENT Clinton's rejection of an American visa for Gerry Adams has dismayed and angered the Irish-American lobby, which had been trying to win over White House support for the Adams-Hume peace initiative and a new approach in American policy towards Northern Ireland.

The president was ridiculed yesterday for suggesting that Mr Adams posed a threat to America's national security. Father Sean McManus, head of the Irish National Caucus in Washington, said: "That's patently absurd. Americans are quite capable of listening to someone else's views and making up their own minds."

This resentment towards Mr Clinton was provoked by the leaking of a letter he wrote at the end of last month to David Dinkins, who was then fighting for re-election as mayor of New York. Mr Clinton explained why he would not grant a waiver to an earlier rejection of a visa for Mr Adams. "Credible evidence exists that Adams remains involved at the highest level in devising PIRA [Provisional IRA] strategy," he said. Mr

Clinton added that despite his talks with Mr Hume, leader of the Social Democratic and Labour Party, Mr Adams "still has not publicly revoked terrorism".

Mr Dinkins went on to lose the election despite his long support for Irish extremists, which included his naming a street after Joe Doherty, who lost a nine-year battle against extradition for the murder of a British soldier. Many of New York's Irish voted for Rudolph Giuliani, Mr Dinkins' Republican opponent.

The campaign to give Mr

Adams a visa was again forced into the White House limelight last Thursday by nine members of the Congressional ad hoc committee for Irish affairs, led by Joseph Kennedy from Boston. The committee met Anthony Lake, the president's national security adviser, who said there was no way Mr Adams would be granted a visa.

There is nothing new in the Clinton administration's position. Members of Sinn Féin have routinely been barred from the United States since the Reagan-Thatcher years,

but the Irish-American lobby's hopes for a change had been raised by the Hume-Adams dialogue and by promises Mr Clinton made during his election campaign.

During the run-up to the New York Democratic primary in April last year, Mr Clinton appeared before an Irish forum and was asked if, as president, he would grant American visitors' visas to Mr Adams and other prominent members of Sinn Féin to allow them to defend their views before the American people.

Mr Clinton replied: "I

would support a visa for Gerry Adams and I would support them for every other properly elected official who was part of a government recognised by the U.S. I think it would be totally harmful to our national security interests and might be enlightening to the political debate in this country about the issues involved."

When asked about this statement yesterday, a White House official claimed that Mr Clinton only said he would consider granting a visa, but as Mr Adams was no longer a

British MP he was not entitled to special consideration. An official said that the visa request had been denied on the advice of Janet Reno, the attorney-general, and Warren Christopher, Secretary of State, because of Mr Adams' "involvement in terrorist activities and his refusal to renounce them".

Another Clinton campaign pledge that he would send a peace envoy to Ireland is still under consideration, according to a White House official.

Visa refused, page 1

Paisley calls for new Northern Ireland assembly

BY NICHOLAS WATT, IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

A NEW Northern Ireland assembly should be established to draw up proposals on Ulster's future government, which would replace the Anglo-Irish Agreement, the Rev Ian Paisley said yesterday.

Unveiling the plan — *Breaking The Logjam*, which was presented to John Major in September — Mr Paisley said in Belfast it would fill the present political vacuum. It was immediately condemned by the other constitutional parties, including the Ulster Unionists.

The leader of the Democratic Unionist Party said that the assembly would only

negotiate with Dublin on Northern Ireland's relations with the republic under three conditions.

First, the assembly would have to conclude its own negotiations on an internal solution to Ulster. Second, Dublin would have to remove Articles 2 and 3 of the Irish constitution, which lay claim to the territory of Northern Ireland. Third, the Anglo-Irish Agreement would have to be suspended during the negotiations. Only then would the assembly negotiate with Dublin on a replacement to the agreement.

In a radio interview yesterday, Dr

Paisley, MP for Antrim North, challenged John Hume, the SDLP leader, and Gerry Adams of Sinn Féin, to make available a document produced after their recent talks.

Mr Paisley said: "Let's see it. Why is it that the Pope is supposed to have seen this document? [President] Clinton is supposed to have seen this document. Other members like that black man from Africa — eh, Mr Mandela — he has seen these proposals. And I am a voter and a member of Parliament and I am not allowed to see them. Yet they are deciding my future. Is that democracy?"



Paisley: plan would "fill the vacuum"

Spanish slaughter methods 'barbaric'

BY MICHAEL HORNSBY, AGRICULTURE CORRESPONDENT, AND EDWARD OWEN IN MADRID

BRITAIN accused Spain yesterday of "flagrant abuse" of European Community abattoir rules after the RSPCA released film of Spanish slaughtermen stabbing sheep and cattle without stunning them first.

The video, taken by RSPCA undercover agents, shows abattoir workers plunging screwdrivers into the necks of sheep in a clumsy attempt to paralyse them and repeatedly stabbing a bullock in a slaughter pen with knives fixed to the end of broom handles.

Nicholas Soames, a junior agriculture minister, said the government would be making "the most robust representations" to the European Commission. He added: "It is completely unacceptable. It is in flagrant abuse of European rules and regulations and shows wanton unconcern about what are moral and ethical matters."

The minister's outburst was echoed by José Villalba, the mayor of Nerva, a town in southwest Spain where one of the abattoirs visited by the RSPCA is located. "This is real barbarity," he said on being told of the film's contents. "I will start an immediate investigation." The Spanish agriculture ministry in Madrid also promised to enquire into the matter.

Under EC slaughterhouse law, animals are supposed to be stunned, either with a captive-bolt pistol that penetrates the brain or with electrocution tongs, before their throats are cut. It is well known that Spanish slaughterhouses frequently dispense with these preliminaries or carry them out inadequately.



Supt Dave Swift holding forged £20 notes with a face value of £1 million seized after a year-long undercover operation on Tyneside. Detectives say that the notes are of excellent quality and could easily have fooled consumers. "Experts would have difficulty in deciding whether they were genuine," Det Chief Supt Barry Stewart, head of Northumbria CID, said yesterday. The paper they are printed on is identical to that used for genuine banknotes; only an ultra-violet light can indicate they are forgeries. Northumbria police have been working since last year to find the source of counterfeit notes that have been turning up regularly in Newcastle pubs and clubs.

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Nadir administrator has passport taken

The British liquidator Michael Jordan had his passport removed by Turkish authorities in Istanbul after allegations of bribery by Asil Nadir. Mr Jordan and David Kidd, a lawyer, who are both administrators of Polly Peck International, were summoned to the Turkish prosecutors' office yesterday to answer allegations that they had paid substantial bribes to dispose of assets belonging to Mr Nadir, the group's former chairman. After a three-hour meeting, held at their own request, the men's passports were returned and they were due to return home last night.

The passports of both men were demanded by Turkish police who visited their hotel on Wednesday night after both men had flown in to make enquiries over a company once owned by Mr Nadir. The allegations against them have been denied.

Thief shooting admitted

A businessman who shot and seriously wounded a burglar during a raid on his home in Staffordshire was given a suspended jail sentence yesterday in what the trial judge described as "wholly exceptional circumstances". Ibrahim Jaeban fired at the burglar's fleeing car, hitting the driver. Sentencing him to 18 months' imprisonment, suspended for two years, Judge Allardice said: "I accept that you were very frightened when you saw your action had caused serious injury to one burglar."

Mining strike vote

Miners are to be balloted on selective strike action in support of a pay claim. Delegates of the National Union of Mineworkers in Sheffield decided to call for a postal ballot to be held between December 13 and 20. The union's 15,000 members will be asked to support selective action in January, including the possibility of an overtime ban. The proposed action would be in support of a claim for a "substantial" pay increase. Union members have not received a rise in pay for more than two years.

Cheaper flights likely

Air fares between Britain and Hong Kong from Heathrow are expected to fall in February when Virgin Atlantic joins the route at present flown by British Airways and Cathay Pacific. Peter Sutch, chairman of Cathay, urged Virgin not to start a price war. Virgin said: "Competition need not be suicidal and in fact is usually very healthy."

£149,000 for Constables

An anonymous British collector paid £149,300 at Sotheby's, London, yesterday for two previously unknown watercolours by John Constable. They belonged to an unnamed woman from Dedham Vale, the artist's heartland on the Suffolk-Essex border, whose family had owned them for many years without having them officially verified as Constables.

School challenge fails

A father has failed in his legal attempt to challenge Bradford Metropolitan Borough Council's schools admissions policy. Mr Justice McCullough, in the High Court, dismissed an application by Mohammed Kholif, of Bradford, for judicial review of rejection of claims that the council's policy was unlawful and racially discriminatory.

Boy may be in UK



Three men will appear in the High Court today as part of the hunt for Oliver Malkin, 12, abducted to France by his father Peter. Legal moves were also under way to serve orders on another five people who might have information about the boy's whereabouts. Kent police believe father and son could have slipped into the UK in a red VW Golf, registration number 990 KNF 75.

Shipyard cuts more jobs

Further redundancies among the 1,500 workers at the Swan Hunter shipyard on Tyneside will be announced today. More than 700 workers have lost their jobs since receivers were appointed in May. No figure has been put on the latest dismissals. Price Waterhouse, the receivers, are trying to find a buyer for the yard.

Fitter too fat to work

A 22st Liverpool fitter has been suspended from work on full pay because he is too fat (Philip Bassett writes). The engineering worker, normally employed in the Liverpool docks, has been told he can resume work only when he has lost at least two stone. His employer, NEI Clark Chapman, has paid for him to attend WeightWatchers' classes.

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THE WINES OF
Ernest & Julio Gallo.

Shoppers will play UK's hi-tech lottery

Continued from page 1

playing devices, such as video lottery machines, have been criticised for promoting over-use and dependency. In a special note to the guidelines, Peter Brooke, the heritage secretary, makes clear that games that encourage excess playing will not be licensed.

Controls on under-age players, covering those under 16, are also given priority. Games played by telephone will not be allowed and unattended vending machines will not be permitted to sell tickets.

The lottery, which may generate £2 billion in its first year and up to £4 billion in its second, will provide significant financial gains to its operator after the third or fourth year. For that reason, potential operators had hoped a 12-year licence would be granted. Yesterday, however, Mr Davis announced that the licence would run for seven years. Bids must be submitted by the middle of next February.

Pennington, page 27

Drug gives hope for treating breast cancer

BY NIGEL HAWKES, SCIENCE EDITOR

A NEW drug could provide hope for women with advanced breast cancer, according to scientists.

Results to be presented this weekend, at the European Conference of Clinical Oncology in Jerusalem, show that formestane, a new hormone treatment, is as effective in treating breast cancer as tamoxifen, the existing drug of choice. This means that women who no longer respond to tamoxifen could be

treated with formestane, which works by blocking the production of oestrogen.

The findings from an international trial involving 409 patients, will be presented by Dr Louis Mauriac of the Fondation Bergonié, a cancer institute in Bordeaux, southwest France. Formestane, which is manufactured by the drug company Ciba, has been on the market for some months but is not yet in widespread use.

Prince retreats in face of Gallic cheek

FROM ALAN HAMILTON IN ABU DHABI

THE gesture was one the Prince of Wales could hardly fail to notice and there is little doubt that it was calculated to attract his attention. Touring the Dubai air show yesterday, to lend support to a massive presence by the British aerospace industry which seeks to expand its already lucrative Middle East markets, the prince was inspecting British hardware when his eye was caught by two air force pilots snapping smartly to attention with an immaculate salute.

He went straight to them, shook them warmly by the hand, and engaged them in conversation. When they replied "Bonjour" he realised he had made a gaffe. They were French air force pilots there to demonstrate Mirage fighters.

Group Captain the Prince of Wales, honorary Air Commodore of RAF Valley, beat a dignified but hasty retreat into the control room of a thoroughly British missile system made in Herefordshire. The incident would have been no more than a friendly encounter between fellow-fliers except for the fact that the British and French aerospace and defence industries are locked in mortal combat for second position in the world export league after the United States. Britain has achieved sales of £6 billion so far this year, behind the US at £10 billion and ahead of France at £4.5 billion.

The British thought they had done well to attract the royal visitor to what is now the largest aircraft and arms bazaar in

the world outside Europe. Until yesterday, the most important French presence had been the chief of their air staff. The Germans sent only an economics ministry parliamentary secretary.

But Gallic impertinence stole the day. Paul Beaver of Jane's, the defence publishers, said: "When it comes to showmanship and marketing, the French leave the British standing most of the time."

The Prince eventually touched base with a Lynx helicopter crew from HMS Liverpool. The words "Royal Navy" were emblazoned prominently on their flying suits. But they did not salute. In the British armed services, you do not salute an officer who is not wearing his hat.

هكذا من الأصل

Grandmother of Laura Davies tells of child's wish to be an angel in the Christmas play

Parents decide girl can take no more in unequal struggle

By RICHARD DUCE

LAURA DAVIES yesterday lost her fight for life and "joined the angels in Heaven". Her parents Fran and Les took the agonising decision to switch off the ventilator keeping her alive at 9am British time.

They were at her bedside when doctors at Pittsburgh Children's Hospital ended the struggle for life since Laura had a multi-organ transplant. Barbara Cooper, the child's grandmother, said: "Laura said she wanted to be an angel in the Christmas play. Well, she has got her wish: now she can be with all the other angels in Heaven."

Within the last week Mrs Davies accepted "it might come to a time when enough is enough". That time came for Mr and Mrs Davies at 7.45am. Mrs Cooper said: "Fran decided Laura was not fighting any more and asked the doctors to switch off the life-support machine."

Laura was born at St Mary's Hospital, Manchester, on April 1, 1988, with the rare bowel disorder gastroschisis, which made digestion impossible. In June 1992, she was given a new liver and bowel in a 15-hour operation funded by public donations and King Fahd of Saudi Arabia. Her parents eventually chose treatment in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, after an appeal for money, rather than at Addenbrooke's hospital in Cambridge.

There then followed further transplant surgery two months ago, when she was given a new liver, bowel, stomach, pancreas, kidneys and intestines.

Mrs Cooper said: "Right from when she was born, I felt she was just on loan to us from God and now He has taken her back. During her short life, she has brought so much happiness to so many and was so happy herself, that we were blessed to have her."

Lyn McMahon, of the Pittsburgh hospital, said: "Laura has really captured the hearts of all who have cared for her and had come to know her

over the past year and a half so. It was a very difficult decision to have to make but it was a decision made with Laura's best interests in mind."

Laura had not left intensive care at hospital after her second operation and could breathe only with the help of a ventilator.

Dr Adrian Bianchi, the surgeon who originally treated her at the Royal Manchester Children's Hospital, said: "Matters deteriorated over the last few days and particularly last night. It was obvious things were not going right way. I have the deepest sympathy for the parents. They did all they could. I feel very strongly that the right decisions were made for Laura in relation to her treatment."

"I feel like I have lost a child of my own. I am sad, upset, and feel strongly for the parents. They have lost a delightful, loving child."

He said that Laura's latest relapse was a consequence of the use of the drug FK506, which she needed to prevent rejection of the organs. The drug, which suppresses the body's immune system, pro-

duced symptoms similar to those of a cancerous growth.

A spokesman for the Saudi embassy in London said news of Laura's death was passed on to King Fahd and the ambassador, who was with the Prince of Wales in Saudi Arabia yesterday.

Sir Bruce Martin, chairman of the North Western Regional Health Authority, said: "New frontiers in medicine can bring sadness as well as success. Laura showed tremendous courage for one so young. My sympathies go to her parents, who demonstrated such spirit, determination and belief in their daughter."

Tom Sackville, the junior health minister, said: "I wish to express my deepest sympathy to Laura's parents and family. We all admired the tremendous courage which Laura showed."

After her first transplant, Laura recovered well and returned home for Christmas last year but her body then rejected the new organs and by summer of this year she was critically ill once more.

Laura dies, page 1



The face of Laura Davies — who stirred a nation — seen in September at Pittsburgh Children's Hospital as she listened to her tape player

We acted for Laura's benefit, say surgeons

Experts are divided on the ethics of Laura's treatment, Nigel Hawkes reports



come routine procedures," Sir Roy said. "I am sure this will happen for intestinal transplants — the fact that some patients have already done very well means that this will also become routine. But it requires a great deal of work. There have to be cases done first. There are risks. Laura's parents knew this."

Dr Richard Nicholson, editor of the *Bulletin on Medical Ethics*, said: "There are circumstances in which extraordinary treatments can be

justified, but it is more difficult in the case of a child who has no say and who is going to be put through a great deal. Then one has to think very carefully."

He believes that the efforts made in Pittsburgh were not in Laura's best interests. What of the argument that without taking risks, no progress would ever be made? "People who use this argument don't analyse how much progress has been made," Dr Nicholson said. "Kidney

transplants are a much better treatment than dialysis, but so much effort has been put into transplants that remarkably little work has been done on preventing kidney disease."

He said that doctors, surgeons and the media were impressed with the glamour of transplants while prevention was "frightfully mundane, but in the long term much better for society."

Dr Brenda Almond, a medical ethicist from the University of Hull, said the priority should be compassion. "Where children are concerned, one has to ask how much suffering they can be expected to undergo. But children are resilient, and when treating them, there is a lot of life to gamble for."

In Laura's case, the first transplant was relatively uncontroversial, but the second raises more difficult issues. The organs she was given could instead have been given to another child who might have stood a better chance of survival. The estimated £1 million cost of the treatment could have saved hundreds of children if invested in vaccination programmes in Africa, or tens if spent in intensive care units in the West.

Dr Stephen Miles, a physician and bioethicist at Minnesota University, questions giving a second transplant after the first had failed. "Maybe two or three children could have used those organs with a better chance of survival."



Laura's parents, Les and Fran Davies, yesterday



Roger Levitt, centre, arriving at the court with his wife, Diane, and his lawyer

British author 'duped out of £400,000' by financial adviser

By JON ASHWORTH

ONE of Britain's best-known novelists was duped out of £400,000 by a financial adviser who was fighting a desperate battle to keep his company afloat. It was alleged yesterday in court.

It was claimed that Frederick Forsyth, author of *The Day of the Jackal* and *The Dogs of War*, gave the money to Roger Levitt to invest in bonds, just months before his financial services group collapsed owing £40 million.

Mr Levitt, 44, of St John's Wood, northwest London, was appearing at the Old Bailey at the start of a trial stemming from the collapse of his company in December 1990. Mr

Levitt, Mark Reed, Alan McNamara and Robert Price all deny a single joint charge of fraudulent trading.

The court was told that Mr Forsyth, who lost £900,000 in the collapse, had been buying and investing bonds through the Levitt Group for a number of years. David Cocks QC, for the prosecution, said the author, like many other investors, believed Mr Levitt to be honest. Instead, the jury was told, the company was "ridicled with fraud".

In May 1990, Mr Forsyth gave Mr Levitt a cheque for £400,000 to invest in bonds on his behalf. Instead, it was claimed, he used the money in

trying to shore up his ailing financial empire.

It was alleged that Mr Levitt sold shares and took out loans to raise £21 million in desperately needed funds. He was said to have forged invoices and altered accounts to disguise his actions.

In the 18 months to June 1990, the Levitt Group made a loss of £13 million, but the accounts were falsified to disguise the true situation, Mr Cocks said. The company was losing as much as £1 million a month before it collapsed. It was only kept going by "fraud and dishonesty on a massive scale".

The trial continues.

Daughters win abuse damages

By FRANCES GIBB
LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

THREE sisters who were allegedly subjected to a "horrific" catalogue of sexual abuse and beatings by their father made legal history in the High Court yesterday when the father was ordered to pay them a total of £39,699 damages.

It is the first time that people complaining of incest and sexual assault have brought a successful civil court claim for damages.

In April 1990, the father was convicted at the Old Bailey on charges of incest, buggery and indecent assault and jailed for 12 years. Two years later the conviction was quashed by the Court of Appeal, which decided that the jury had been misdirected. The man was immediately released.

The sisters, now all in their 20s and with children of their own, thought this made them out to be liars, the judge, Sir Gervase Sheldon, said yesterday. He set out in detail the acts of abuse that they allegedly suffered at the hands of their father.

The women's solicitor, Julie Reynolds, said: "These girls have all been through hell and they wanted to clear their names."

Awarding the women damages, the judge said that their father had denied all the allegations.

Accused boys 'knew right from wrong'

By RONALD FAUX

TWO psychiatrists who interviewed the boys accused of murdering James Bulger told Preston Crown Court yesterday that both boys knew right from wrong.

The court heard that both boys now suffered nightmares. Boy A showed symptoms of post-traumatic stress and boy B burst into tears whenever he was questioned about the murder.

The head teacher at the school attended by both 11-year-old defendants said both boys knew the difference between right and wrong. They would have known, she said, that it was wrong to take a child from its mother and to strike a young child with a brick.

Both defendants deny abducting and murdering James and attempting to ab-

duct another child in February. Dr Eileen Vizard said she had assessed boy A, and on the balance of probabilities the boy would have known that taking a child from its mother, causing a young child injury and leaving an injured child on a railway line were wrong.

Dr Susan Bailey had interviewed boy B. She thought that the boy could distinguish between right and wrong and knew it was wrong to take a child from its mother, injure a child and leave an injured child on a railway line. Brian Walsh QC, for boy B, asked Dr Bailey whether each time she asked the boy about James's murder and abduction, he cried inconsolably. "That is correct," she replied. Mr Walsh added: "You have considered a number of matters, including the circumstances of his condition... Is

this right: that you have come to the opinion that... he is not able to talk about the subject of this indictment, in any useful way?" She replied: "That is correct."

A tape recording of a police interview with boy A after his arrest was played in court. When the boy was asked about James, he said: "I never took him." He later recalled seeing James with his mother as he and boy B were in the Strand Shopping Centre, Bootle.

Asked if he knew about James, boy A replied: "Yes, because I took flowers over yesterday." Asked how he recognised James, he said he had seen a picture of him in a bag of flowers and pictures on television and in the newspapers. A policeman asked the boy if he knew the difference between lies and the truth. He replied: "Yes." The trial continues.

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Flu claims more lives as expert declares epidemic

By JEREMY LAURANCE, HEALTH SERVICES CORRESPONDENT

AS THE flu virus sweeps through Britain in what was officially described yesterday as an epidemic, experts remained baffled by the extent of the illness it is causing.

Another five deaths were reported yesterday as figures showed 178 cases of flu-like illness per 100,000 members of the population, compared with the usual average of 40-50 per 100,000. "I am willing to call it an epidemic," said Douglas Fleming, director of the Royal College of General Practitioners' flu monitoring centre in Birmingham.

The five deaths occurred among 23 elderly patients on

one ward in Ladywell hospital, Salford, of whom 14 caught the virus. Deaths attributed to flu in any winter vary from 1,000 to the 25,000 estimated for the winter of the last epidemic in 1969. Nine out of ten victims are over 65.

The rate of increase in flu cases is highest in the South, where they more than doubled between October 31 and November 7, to 145 per 100,000. But the numbers falling ill are still lower than the 201 per 100,000 in the North, where the epidemic started.

"The rate of increase is not as rapid as in 1989, so I am optimistic that this will not be

as bad an epidemic," Dr Fleming said. At the peak of the 1989 epidemic, 580 cases per 100,000 were being recorded and, in 1969, the figure rose to more than 1,000.

However, scientists could not explain why the virus strain causing this year's illness — Flu A Beijing — is proving so virulent. First identified in China in 1969, it arrived in Britain last March but caused few problems.

The current wave of illness began in Mississippi in the United States last August. It was first detected in the UK in October. Alan Hay, director of the Influenza Research Centre

at the National Institute for Medical Research in north London, said that this year's virus strain was little different from that of previous years.

"I don't know why it is causing so much illness," he said. "It is one of the quirks of the epidemiology of infections. Why flu disappears in the spring and reappears in the autumn is not understood."

Last winter — a mild year for flu in Britain and Europe — most illness was caused by a type B virus. The Beijing type A virus arrived too late to have an impact, Dr Hay said.

John Oxford, professor of virology at the Royal London Hospital Medical College, said the reasons why some viruses proved virulent while others were harmless remained a mystery. "That is the Holy Grail of virology."

The vaccine was "spot on" this year, containing the Beijing A strain, and Professor Oxford said it would provide at least 70 per cent protection against infection. Supplies remain short in most areas, however, as manufacturers struggle to meet the demand.

Dr Fleming said that GPs expected to use up their supplies in September and October to vaccinate those at risk — the elderly and people with chronic illnesses — before the onset of winter.

"People should not expect to find vaccine available in November. Doctors will have used up their supplies. The vaccine is not there to respond to a crisis," he said.

Vaccination reduces deaths

THE influenza epidemic has reached Britain this year two months earlier than expected, so it could be more prolonged than usual.

The prominent virus is the A Beijing, a well-studied strain which is incorporated into this year's vaccination mix. Less fortunately, the virus has recently shown considerable drift, with minor changes in its make-up. This drift makes it difficult for doctors to be certain of the degree of protection that the flu injection will give, but they predict that it will be about 80 per cent. The Beijing strain is not usually a particularly virulent one.

Reports in the journal of the American Medical Association of surveys carried out by Professor David Fedson of Virginia University on two recent American flu outbreaks suggests that immunisation reduces the overall death rate by about 30 per cent.

In high-risk groups the reward was even more apparent. Vaccinating those over 65, anyone with heart or lung disease, diabetics, asthmatics and those who are immuno-



Dr Thomas Stuttford on how to prevent and treat influenza

compromised through taking drugs such as steroids or through disease, resulted in a 30-40 per cent reduction of hospital admissions during the epidemic from flu and pneumonia, and a 54-65 per cent reduction in the death rate.

Britain has lagged behind other countries in flu prevention. This year the government's new Chief Medical Officer, Dr Kenneth Calman, tried hard to correct this, but his campaign has now been thwarted by lack of supplies.

Except in vulnerable patients, antibiotics have no place in the treatment of uncomplicated flu. The young and previously fit should take to bed and keep warm; if they develop complications more specific treatment may be needed.



Paul Laidler and Mina Chakraverty of the Public Health Laboratory Service search for traces of the flu virus that is currently sweeping through Britain

Killer has secret of eternal youth

By OUR HEALTH SERVICES CORRESPONDENT

THE secret of the flu virus's capacity to surprise is its enthusiasm for renewing itself. It is eternally youthful, always changing before it weakens and grows old.

With only eight short gene segments, it is simpler than most viruses and can mutate more easily and more frequently. This accounts for its ability to cause epidemics year after year.

Every person who goes down with flu acquires immunity to being re-infected by that strain. Each year, however, "genetic drift" within the virus results in the emergence of a slightly different strain.

This year's flu, if you are unfortunate enough to catch it, will give you some immunity to next year's strain, but as the years pass and the drift progresses, your immunity will fall until you catch it again.

However, three times this century the virus, which has the appearance of a sea urchin, has undergone a more dramatic change in which one type of the spikes on its surface — the haemagglutinin (a protein) — have been renewed.

Changes to the haemagglutinin, which scientists believe could happen at any time, give the virus a fresh capacity to attack and reproduce itself in human cells. On each occasion — in 1918, 1957 and 1968 — the resulting epidemic went round the world and millions died.

It is 22 years since the last major change to the virus gave us Hong Kong Flu in 1968. However, in 1977 the Spanish flu, which caused the world's worst pandemic in 1918, unexpectedly re-emerged. Every epidemic since then has been a variation of one or other of these two strains.

The experience of the past two decades suggests that these strains are running out of steam. During the 1980s and 1990s Britain has been relatively free of flu compared with the epidemics of the 1970s. Even the epidemic of 1989 was, at its height, infecting only half as many people as that in 1969.

Nobody can predict when the next major change of the virus will occur. Only three varieties of haemagglutinin have so far turned up in human flu virus but another ten are known to exist in the viruses that infect birds, pigs and horses, all of which suffer from flu.

Occasionally the virus can be transmitted from humans to animals and vice versa and it is believed by scientists that when two strains of the virus mix in this way that a major mutation becomes possible.

Little jab gave me the big shivers

By JANET BUSH

MY FLU jab made me sick. Not just the sore arm and flu-like symptoms for 24 hours or so which I was warned about. No, I think I have the full Beijing special.

I decided on a flu injection as a pre-emptive strike. I had already had one dose of the shivers in late October and thought a jab would protect me for the rest of the winter. I am also one of those health criminals: addicted smokers that the NHS probably won't be treating in future, so I thought I had better get in fast.

I rang my doctor and he said that normally he would only give the vaccine to pensioners but would make an exception in my case as I am asthmatic.

I have heard that there was a shortage of vaccine, but I was given an appointment the next day, on Tues-

day. There were no flu-like symptoms on Wednesday and Thursday, but by Friday evening, at a fireworks party, I started feeling shaky. I took my temperature and it was 101.

Six days later, I am still watching Richard and Judy, Anne and Nick, and other delights of daytime television. I rang my doctor who concluded that I had had a bad reaction to the flu jab.

Talking to friends who had taken the same sensible step in the past, I found that all of them had refused to defend themselves against flu a second time because the exercise had made them sicker than they would have been otherwise.

I will wait to see whether I am flu free for the rest of the winter before deciding on my strategy next year — NHS co-operation willing.

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Ministers are urged to cut coach speeds

By TIM JONES AND EDWARD GORMAN

MINISTERS were urged yesterday to bring in immediate legislation to ban buses and coaches from the fast lanes of motorways and to speed up plans to restrict their speeds to 65mph.

The consultant treating the 36 American and Canadian survivors of the M2 coach crash in Kent on Wednesday called on the government to introduce seat belts in coaches without delay.

Dr Susan Brooks, who has been treating survivors at the Kent and Canterbury Hospital, said she had no doubt seat belts would have saved many lives and prevented injuries. "It is apparent that those who died were thrown out of the side of the coach which then landed on top of them. Had they been restrained in seat belts and kept inside the coach, there is a chance they would have survived."

In 1996, the government will implement an EC directive reducing the speed of coaches on motorways from the present 70mph limit, in spite of determined opposition from the Bus and Coach Council, to which most major operators belong.

In the new year, it is also expected to publish a white paper which will seek to ban them from using the third or fourth lanes of motorways.

James Tye, director general of the British Bus Council, yesterday condemned the delay as "ludicrous". He said:

"There is no earthly reason why legislation should not be passed immediately."

The safety implications of coaches, buses and mini buses carrying scores of passengers weaving their way in and out of motorway lanes are obvious. The government should act immediately to introduce these bans in the interests of safety.

The Royal Automobile Club said it would welcome a hasty introduction of the measures.

A spokesman for the Bus and Coach Council said there was no evidence to support the case. "Official statistics show that coaches have an excellent safety record and currently use the third lane without any risk to other drivers and will still be able to do so at 65mph."

He added: "It is claimed that coaches at 65mph in the third lane could cause bunching and 'aggressive behaviour' by car drivers. This is no basis for penalising coaches."

"It is a charter for speeders and appears to give official sanction to law breaking. Far from improving road safety, this measure may, in fact, do the exact opposite."

The spokesman added: "At a time when the government is at least paying lip service to public transport, the transport department seems to be determined to undermine the competitiveness of coach travel against private motoring."

Letters, page 21

Sisters moved seats just before impact

By EDWARD GORMAN

FOR one family from Lafayette, Louisiana, the horror of the M2 coach crash in Kent will not easily be forgotten.

Patricia Becnel, 76, had always dreamt of accompanying her four daughters to Canterbury. It was her favourite part of England and a place she had visited with her husband on earlier trips.

This was her first holiday since his death two years ago and she and her daughters, Debbie, 35, Barbie, 40, Shani, 42, and Frankie, 52, were all aboard the coach. Debbie and Frankie were both killed in the crash and Mrs Becnel's head was badly injured.

Mrs Becnel's future daughter-in-law, Carla Walker, 32, was among the first relatives to fly in yesterday, and was able to piece together the last moments before the accident from the surviving sisters.

"Shani had just switched seats with Frankie to sit with her mother. Frankie sat next to



Carla Walker: account of moments before crash

Debbie — they were the two who were killed," Ms Walker explained. "As she was sitting down someone yelled, 'Oh my God, it's coming for the bus'. She looked up and there was a white van in front of them."

□ Leslie Cold, 54, the coach driver, who died in the crash, had been nominated as Driver of the Year by Travellers International, his brother David said yesterday.



One of the dozens of cars that was engulfed by flames being lifted from the wreckage yesterday as the search continued for more bodies

EC firms could undermine seat-belt law in Britain

By JAMES LANDALE AND MICHAEL DYNES

ROBERT Key, the roads minister, was wrong to claim that Brussels is preventing the government from introducing seat belts on coaches but right to insist that national legislation would be ineffective.

Under European Community law, Britain can pass its own legislation requiring coach operators to fit seat belts to their vehicles, regardless of the views of its EC partners.

Exemptions would have to be granted to coach manufacturers and operators from other EC countries, thereby undermining any attempt by

Britain to go it alone. Under EC law, Brussels is responsible for setting safety standards which are agreed by all member states, enabling their vehicles to travel freely around the Community. Britain could require domestic coach operators to meet more stringent safety standards. But any attempt to impose those standards

on other EC countries would be seen as discriminatory, rendering the government liable to legal action.

Moreover, there would be nothing to stop domestic operators from buying foreign vehicles in an effort to avoid the cost of additional safety standards — forcing police to enforce different laws for different operators.

Police hold British lorry driver after crash

By A STAFF REPORTER

FRENCH police have taken a British lorry driver into routine custody for questioning as a witness and launched an investigation into involuntary homicide after the country's worst road accident in a decade.

At least 17 people died and 49 were injured, including three Britons, after fire engulfed dozens of vehicles involved in a pile-up on the Paris-Bordeaux motorway in southwest France. Firefighters searched for more bodies yesterday among the charred wreckage of 43 cars, two vans and six lorries.

The accident happened after the trailer of a British lorry caught fire, sending smoke across the motorway, according to the French regional authority at La Rochelle and the Foreign Office.

The driver, who has not been named, pulled over to the side of the road to extinguish the blaze, but a lorry and an empty tanker collided in the smoke and exploded, and other vehicles piled into their rear.

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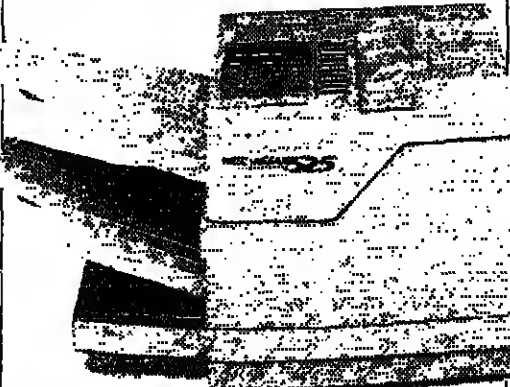
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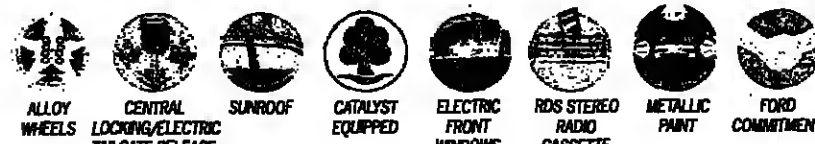
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مَكْزَا مِنْ الْأَصْلِ

Patten rejects calls for statutory control of activity centres

By JOHN O'LEARY, EDUCATION EDITOR

JOHN Patten, the education secretary, yesterday refused demands for government regulation of outdoor activity centres in response to the Lyme Bay canoeing tragedy in which four teenagers died.

Mr Patten announced a four-point safety plan which includes a new inspection system but stops short of requiring the centres to be accredited. Ministers have decided to rely on a voluntary scheme being developed by public and private sector organisations in the field.

Four sixth-formers from Southway comprehensive school in Plymouth, staying at the St Albans Centre near Lyme Regis, died in March when their canoes became swamped.

Two senior executives with the St Albans Centre, which has now closed, have been charged with unlawful killing in connection with the incident.

The Lyme Bay disaster prompted immediate de-

mands for tighter controls on outdoor activity centres.

The measures announced yesterday include the provision of new and detailed guidance for schools, and publication of the inspectors' reports on activity centres.

However, parents and local authority officials expressed "dismay" at the absence of regulation.

Devon County Council, which has called for a national independent register of centres, said that the measures did not go far enough.

Dr Paul Gray, Devon's deputy chief education officer, said: "Many people will rightly question how many deaths it takes for the proper regulation of these centres."

Dr Gray said that the plan placed education authorities in an "invidious and untenable position".

The onus of responsibility seemed to be falling on the local authority, school governors and teachers, Dr Gray added.

David Jamieson, the Labour MP for Plymouth Devonport, said that the government's plan was inadequate, and advised schools not to use outdoor centres.

The parents of the children involved in the canoe tragedy said that they would try to persuade Mr Patten that his plan would not allay the anxieties of other families.

"The onus for ensuring activity centres are operated safely has been thrust firmly back on schools, who are going to be told that it is very much their legal duty to satisfy themselves that centres are

safe," the parents said in a statement.

A government survey of activity centres has already started. A minority of the activity centres will be inspected by the Health and Safety Executive over the next two years. Schools will also be required to emphasise their legal responsibility for health and safety in their articles of government.

Mr Patten said inspections would help to ensure centres were complying with the law. Ministers would assist and monitor the progress of voluntary accreditation.

He added: "It is vital that all concerned take every appropriate step to avoid any recurrence of the tragic events in Lyme Bay last March." The measures would both encourage the spread of good practice among providers and bring home to all consumers the need to take all possible precautions in planning outdoor activities.



Coracle at the ready, Andrew Jones, of the North West Kent Countryside Project, prepares to place parcels of barley in the river Darent. Rotting barley produces an unidentified chemical that destroys algae

Zoo in the mire over dung heap pollution

A ZOO'S dung heap polluted water that flowed into a Hampshire boating lake.

Magistrates at Winchester were told yesterday that effluent from the heap, 15 to 20ft high, had run through a ditch to lakes at a canoeing and boating centre 300 yards away. Marwell Preservation Trust, which operates Marwell Zoological Park, was given a two-year conditional discharge and ordered to pay £660 costs after admitting the offence.

Martin Davies, for the National Rivers Authority, which brought the prosecution, said the zoo was warned on February 16 that the dung heap was a source of possible pollution.

Bob Davies, for the zoo, said remedial action to prevent the problem recurring had cost about £80,000. The offence happened on a day of extremely heavy rain. The heap had since been moved elsewhere and the zoo was installing an incinerator to deal with waste.

The chairman of the magistrates said that although the zoo was a charity, like all institutions it had an obligation to keep the law.



Patten: relying on voluntary regulation

Balmoral threatened by lung disease gas

By NICK NUTTALL, ENVIRONMENT CORRESPONDENT

BALMORAL, the royal family's Scottish retreat, could be contaminated with high levels of a gas linked with lung disease.

The National Radiological Protection Board, which has been carrying out tests on radon levels, yesterday disclosed the results of its studies in Scotland.

It has found that the southern half of Gordon, parts of Caithness, Sutherland, and Kincardine and Deeside, where Balmoral is located, are all "radon affected" areas.

Tests carried out near Balmoral have found levels of the gas, produced by the

decay of natural uranium, at 1,600 becquerels - eight times higher than the action level of 200 becquerels. The average radon level in Scotland is 16 becquerels.

Lord James Douglas-Hamilton, the Scottish Office minister, said yesterday that households in affected areas should have gas levels measured under a government-funded scheme. "The problem should not be ignored," he said.

A Buckingham Palace spokesman said that it was not possible to say if the royal home had been tested, but they would be taking government advice.

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TOMORROW

THE TIMES

WEEKEND

ANDY MARTIN compares Oxbridge colleges to the Italian Mafia

CYNDI LAUPER boards a lobster boat to a perfect weekend

FRANCES BISELL recommends sausage and mash

ROTHSCHILD Cook of the Year competition results

CHRISTMAS SHOPPING - mail-order gifts to select from your armchair

SUE CARPENTER and NICHOLAS BONHAM reveal their charity card choices

RANULPH FIENNES compares an Antarctic crossing without tensions to a voyage across a white tablecloth

PLUS

Bluster through a Pennines weekend break. Bowled over - literally, in a sphere. Wine specialists versus supermarkets. Children's listings. Property: changing values. And Rachel Cook on her virtues and vices.

vision

SEVEN DAYS OF TELEVISION AND RADIO LISTINGS

KATE MUIR on Oliver Stone's Wild Palms

LYNNE TRUSS on Life in the Freezer

LAURIE TAYLOR on Jo Brand on radio

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BARCLAYS

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British surgeons begin trials of American technique to treat coronary ailments

Laser gun fires new hope into heart disease patients

BY JEREMY LAURANCE
HEALTH SERVICES
CORRESPONDENT

A LASER gun used to create tiny holes in the heart has begun trials in Britain as a new treatment for coronary disease. If successful, it could change the approach to the treatment of one of Britain's commonest fatal diseases.

A team from the Papworth Hospital in Cambridgeshire is using the laser to treat patients with heart disease who cannot have coronary bypass surgery. Instead of grafting new blood vessels onto the heart to replace those that have become narrowed or blocked, the laser drills tiny holes through the heart wall to form new blood vessels.

Two patients have so far undergone the procedure, which lasts about an hour. An incision is made in the side of the chest and the laser is positioned over the beating heart. It is computer controlled to fire between the

Doctors are making tiny holes in the heart to form new blood vessels. It could be an important advance in heart treatment

patient's heartbeats when the left ventricle — the heart's main pumping chamber — is full of blood.

Each laser hole, about one millimetre in diameter — the thickness of a pencil lead — creates a channel in the heart's wall allowing oxygen-rich blood to reach the damaged heart muscle. To avoid burning a hole right through the heart, the laser is fired when the ventricle is full of blood, because a laser beam is absorbed and dispersed by liquid.

The laser, costing £700,000, has been bought by Bupa, the private health care group, but will be used to treat NHS patients in the two-year trial. The study is the first joint research venture between Bupa and the NHS. Patients

are being treated at the Bupa Cambridge Lea Hospital, near Papworth.

The procedure, known as transmyocardial revascularisation, has been used to treat 70 patients in the United States but British specialists had been sceptical. "We thought it was very interesting but mad," said Professor John Wallwork, consultant cardiologist at Papworth and a member of the research team.

"The problem is if you make a hole with a drill it causes damage to the tissue, which triggers the clotting process blocking the hole. But the laser appears to cause so little damage, the blood doesn't clot."

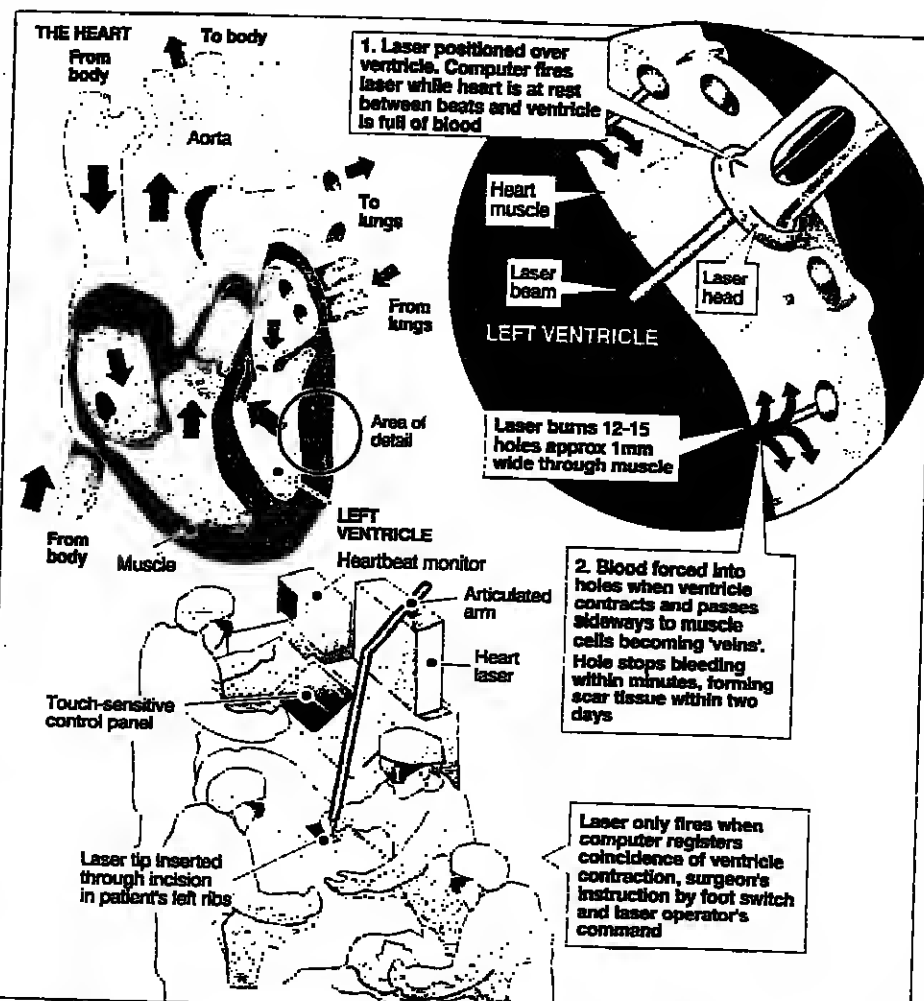
During the operation, as the laser beam emerges

through the surface of the heart, the blood clots on contact with the air sealing the ends of the holes so that the heart doesn't leak. Scar tissue forms within two days.

Of the 70 patients operated on in the US, four have died, two from causes unrelated to the procedure. Post-mortem results revealed that the laser channels had remained open and formed blood vessel-like walls.

The British study of 64 patients, half of whom will be given the procedure, will be the first properly controlled trial. Professor Wallwork said. The trial will be limited to patients with inoperable heart disease, most of whom will have had surgery, but could be extended to other groups if successful.

"If it works it is likely to be a very important advance in the treatment of heart disease," said Professor Wallwork. "It will give us another brand new technique for treating people with chest pain."



Alcoholics' memory loss may be reversible

MEMORY loss, a common side-effect of alcoholism, may not be irreversible, researchers reported yesterday.

It is widely assumed that most heavy drinkers lose nerve cells in their brains. However, a team of Danish scientists believes this may not necessarily be true.

Dr Grethe Badsberg Jensen and Dr Bente Pakkenberg, of the Bartholin Institute, studied the brains of 55 alcoholics. Fifty-three died from their addiction and two from other causes. They found that the long-term alcoholics had lost not brain nerve cells but the white matter, known as hippocampus, connecting them.

Compared with a group of non-drinkers, they had an 11 per cent lower volume-to-weight ratio of white matter, says a report in *The Lancet*. The alcoholics also had less white matter in the memory centre.

The researchers think that alcoholic dementia is caused not by nerve death but the destruction of the nerve connections, in which case memory might be re-established after treatment or a prolonged abstinence by heavy drinkers.

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Ferguson friend wins apology

A woman who claimed to have had an affair with Major Roy Ferguson, the Duchess of York's father, yesterday accepted a public apology in the High Court from the *Daily Mirror*.

Lesley Player contended that a suggestion that she had publicised messages Major Ferguson had allegedly left on her answering machine was defamatory. Her solicitor said they had been recorded by someone using a remote control to activate the machine.

The newspaper said it regretted publication, apologised to Mrs Player, 34, and agreed to pay her costs.

Son's suicide

Douglas Ellis told an inquest at Chertsey, Surrey, that his son had once told him: "I would rather be in heaven." James Ellis, 25, of Guildford, a devout churchgoer, was found hanging at Guildford Cathedral. Verdict: suicide.

Third sight

Whyn Westway, 84, from Bridlington, North Humberside, blind for 30 years after two unsuccessful attempts to remove cataracts, had his sight restored when he asked doctors to try again.

Wide audience

When PC Terry Bissessar told off a motorist for stopping on the hard shoulder of the M4 to make a telephone call, he did not realise he was being heard by thousands on BBC Wiltshire Sound's radio phone-in.

Escaper caught

A 15-year-old criminal, sent to Portugal for 11 weeks at public expense, was recaptured at Telford, Shropshire, after escaping from the town's magistrates' court on Wednesday.

Stab death

Police said three people were in custody after a young man was stabbed to death in an "unprovoked attack" in Orpington, southwest London.

Spiked drinks

The Hedgehog Society is appealing to gardeners not to put out beer to kill slugs after it was found to be intoxicating hedgehogs.

Charity cards profit 'goes to middlemen'

By LOUISE HIDALGO

AS LITTLE as 3p in every pound spent on charity Christmas cards goes to charities. Millions of pounds go instead to retailers, card manufacturers and middlemen, the Charity Christmas Card Council said yesterday.

Neville Bass, chief executive of the council, which represents 100 charities, said the public was becoming more aware of the swindles carried out in the name of charities. "Fifteen per cent is acceptable — just. Three per cent is certainly not," he said after the council's annual meeting yesterday.

To use a reputable charity

ty's name is a very powerful marketing tool. There must not be a crisis of belief in the validity of charity fundraising methods. Integrity must be maintained."

About £300 million is spent on charity Christmas cards each year, of which £42 million is spent on cards sold direct by charities.

The council also urged the government to speed up implementing a change in the law to make retailers declare on the packet how much goes to each charity, although many chain-stores already do so.

Diary, page 20

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MS

THE MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS SOCIETY

Ministers and the mandarins

Howard insists on right to reject advice

By NICHOLAS WOOD, CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

MICHAEL Howard yesterday insisted on the right of ministers to reject advice from civil servants amid signs of growing strain in Whitehall over John Major's "back to basics" social policy.

The home secretary asserted the primacy of elected politicians over their officials after fierce public criticism of his tough approach to law and order by a former senior Home Office civil servant.

David Faulkner, who headed the department's criminal justice department, yesterday followed up a newspaper article attacking government policy by claiming in a BBC radio interview that changes were being rushed through.

The strains on the courts, the police and prisons were likely to get worse, he said. "It is a very precarious situation. Changes should be thought through and not put into effect in a thoughtless way."

Mr Howard said the job of civil servants was to give

advice to the best of their ability. "I am very careful to discuss their advice with them. I may not always agree with that advice."

He said that Mr Faulkner believed that it was wrong for the police to make the detection of crime their main task. "I disagree with that. If he were still an official at the Home Office and gave me that advice, I would have rejected it."

Although Mr Howard denied a report that senior Home Office civil servants had protested formally about their advice being ignored, there are widespread anxieties within the department over the sudden abandonment of the liberal penal orthodoxy of the last 30 years.

In another sign that the back to basics move is running into civil service resistance, a recent Cabinet Office paper on lone parents rejected much ministerial thinking.

Despite the tensions in

Whitehall, a cabinet offensive designed to flesh out Mr Major's back to basics theme is to be mounted over the next few days. About a third of the cabinet, including the prime minister, will spell out the new approach in interviews and speeches over the week-end and early next week.

The blitz follows a meeting earlier this week in Downing Street attended by the prime minister, Douglas Hurd, Kenneth Clarke, Michael Howard and Michael Heseltine.

Ministers are anxious to dispel the impression that the back to basics idea means little more than a crackdown on welfare payments to single mothers. They are saying that its remit runs far wider and includes economic principles such as sound money, free trade and free markets, tight control of public spending and cutting budget deficits.

Philip Howard, page 20



Lib Dem leaflet angers residents

By JONATHAN PRYNN, POLITICAL REPORTER

PEOPLE on an east London estate described in a controversial Liberal Democrat leaflet as the "most dangerous" in Wapping yesterday united in appealing to the party to leave race out of local politics.

The leaflet, condemned as "filthy and outrageous" by Jack Straw, the Labour environment spokesman, features a crude, computer-generated image of a black man in an aggressive pose. It focused on the plight of Mrs X, a 74-year-old disabled woman, who lives on the estate.

Tom Winnifirth, one of the authors of the leaflet, yesterday resigned as joint shop steward of the *Financial Times*'s magazine branch of the National Union of Journalists, after "expressions of concern" at his involvement in its production. Mr Winnifirth claimed that the figure on the leaflet was a boxer who represented the bawling spirit of the party in this depressed corner of east London.

However, the dispute over this latest leaflet has once again opened wounds that have festered since the election of Derek Beackon, of the far-right British National Party,

to Tower Hamlets council last September. It has also brought further embarrassment to Paddy Ashdown, the Liberal Democrat leader, who had ordered an internal enquiry into leaflets distributed by the party's Tower Hamlets branch earlier this year.

Ali Shieh, a local resident for 40 years, also blamed the Liberal Democrats for rising racial tension in Wapping. "The Liberal Democrats in the area are only doing the work of the Tories. They are using racism and I deplore that. They cause more racism than the National Front."

A young black woman, who did not want to be named, said it was offensive to link descriptions of poor living conditions with the image of a black man. "If you ever see a picture of anything good, it's always a white person," she said.

However, a young white woman who also did not want to be identified said that if the leaflet had used the image of a white man "then all the white people would have kicked up a fuss."

She added: "They shouldn't have used a picture, then nobody would get upset."

Back to basics but forward to what?

The government has started to sound interesting again. The stir over John Major's "back to basics" initiative has achieved at least one of its aims, to show that he is thinking about policy. The headlines are, for once, not about Tory splits or climb-downs but about new measures in politically sensitive areas such as education, law and order and the family.

John Patten and Michael Howard have already offered their view. Further speeches are due from Douglas Hurd, Kenneth Clarke and Mr Major himself on Monday when he addresses the Lord Mayor's banquet. The government is setting the agenda and stirring a debate.

There are advantages in such an all-embracing idea. It enables Tories of all shades of opinion to unite after past divisions on Europe.

"Back to basics" has come to be interpreted as covering almost everything, from a moral crusade via an experiment in social engineering (resurrecting the two-adult family) and a challenge to trendy liberalism (however defined), to an exercise in nostalgia. It is linked with arguments about single mothers and the future of the family.

Mr Major himself is instinctively wary of some of the fancier ideological speculation of the past few days. He prefers a more

practical commonsense approach. For the prime minister, "back to basics" is, as Mr Howard explained on Wednesday, a reassertion of "the traditional, core values of Conservatism. The primacy of the nation state. The importance of sound money. Respect for tradition and authority. Individual responsibility. Making sure the government and public services work for the people, and not the other way around."

It also means getting the fundamentals right in each area of policy, a rigorous ordering of priorities. Whisper it not too loudly in Downing Street, but that sounds like "motherhood and apple pie" or Baroness Thatcher in her daughter of Grantham mood. The need for a "back to basics" approach after more than 14 years in office suggests that something has gone wrong, that the government has slipped away from the true path.

Mr Major is right to refocus his party and the nation. But he and other ministers need to fill out the slogans. Does sound money mean a further squeeze on public spending? How is the nation state to co-exist with a European Union? How far will the welfare state be changed? It is not enough just to assert generally acceptable values.

PETER RIDDELL

Decision day for Tory MP

By ALICE THOMSON, POLITICAL REPORTER

THE prime minister will know today if he faces a by-election in the new year which could reduce the government's Commons majority from 17 to 15.

Sir Richard Body, a leading Euro-sceptic, is deciding this afternoon whether to resign his seat. He is meeting constituency officials and tonight will announce if he will continue as MP for Holland with Boston or take up a lucrative publishing deal specialising in books on Europe. He is also considering standing as an independent against any official Tory candidate.

Sir Richard was furious when Mr Major was alleged to have commented in Japan: "When I hear the name of Richard Body, I hear the sound of white coats flapping."

The prime minister was speaking after Sir Richard said that he should resign. Sir Norman Fowler, the Tory party chairman, met Sir Richard two weeks ago to reassure him that he remains a valued member of the party. Last week, Sir Norman also tried to placate his constituency association. Conservative Central Office said: "We have done what we can. In the end, it is a matter between him and his constituency."

Conservative officials were clearly hoping that Sir Richard was just trying to make the party hierarchy sweat.

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هكذا من الأصل

Perfume monopoly 'is not against the public interest'

By Robin Young

A British retailer determined to cut the price of perfume is considering appealing to a European Community directorate

HIGH prices charged for perfumes are not against the public interest, the Monopolies and Mergers Commission ruled yesterday, exonerating fragrance houses of unfairly refusing supplies to outlets that discounted their products.

The Consumers' Association said the ruling beggared belief and would mean customers must continue to pay excessive prices.

Nigel Whitaker, of the Kingfisher group, whose Superdrug subsidiary initiated the investigation, said the outcome was a real kick in the teeth for consumers.

Nigel Griffiths, Labour's consumer affairs minister, said the decision was disgraceful and that he would be demanding that Michael Heseltine, President of the Board of Trade, should overrule the commission.

Mr Griffiths said: "The commission has bent over backwards to support the French perfume industry when British retailers want to knock pounds off the prices for the British public."

The commission, which had been investigating the perfume industry for nine months, rejected complaints from Superdrug, Asda and Littlewoods that perfume manufacturers had unfairly refused them supplies. The three had submitted a 200-page dossier of complaints alleging that perfume houses were operating a cartel to keep prices artificially high. The

commission, in its report released by the Department of Trade and Industry yesterday, concluded that while there was a complex monopoly among suppliers of fine fragrances, it did not operate against the public interest.

Mr Whitaker said Superdrug would now consider renewing its complaint to the European Commission.

The report said: "Fine fragrances are marketed as luxury products and the MMC accept that the suppliers need to be able to control their distribution in order to protect their brand images which customers evidently value. There is no shortage of other fragrances at much lower prices..."

The commission also investigated how the perfume houses selected the retailers they would allow to sell their scents, and says it could not accept that the refusal to supply discount outlets was a roundabout way of perpetuating retail price maintenance.

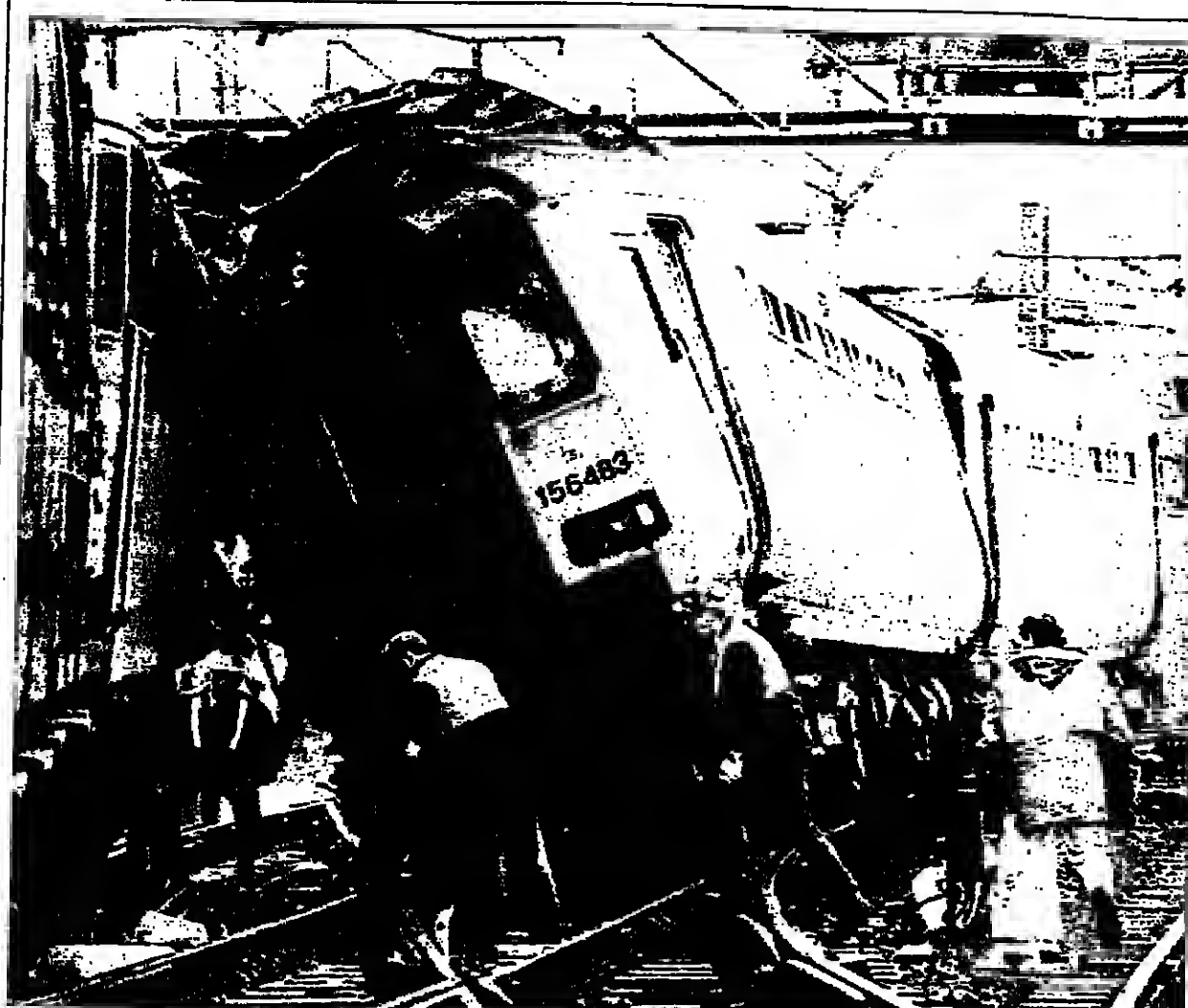
The report says: "The MMC finds no clear evidence that suppliers were using their selective distribution systems as an indirect means of seeking to maintain resale prices."

The average retail profit on a bottle of perfume is between two and three-fifths of the total

price. In spite of the carefully maintained costly image, the raw ingredients of even the finest fragrances may be as little as 5 per cent of the recommended selling price.

Superdrug tried last year to sell perfumes at discount prices by cutting its profit margins but was refused supplies by all the big manufacturers who said Superdrug stores were not of the right quality to sell their products and its staff were not trained to the standards they required.

The only comfort for the discounters in the report was note taken of "a number of anomalies" in the fragrance houses' distribution arrangements. The commission suggested that an arbitration scheme might be introduced to resolve disputes between retailers and manufacturers.



The scene outside Leeds station after the crash between the passenger train and the parcels service

Train crash at junction holds up thousands

By Paul Wilkinson

A MINOR train crash caused widespread disruption for thousands of passengers across northern England yesterday. Five people were slightly injured in the collision outside Leeds station and the accident also blocked a vital junction.

InterCity travellers for London were rerouted through York 20 miles away but faced delays of up to three hours as trains from the south halted 30 miles short at Doncaster.

Leeds is one of Britain's busiest stations with 829 arrivals and departures each day. Every train passes the West End junction, where just two tracks operate in each direction. All four were blocked by yesterday's crash when a Blackpool-bound passenger service collided with a parcel train from Penzance.

A 29-year-old motorist from Immingham, Humberside, died yesterday after his car was hit by a passenger train on a level crossing at Little London near Grimsby.

WEEKEND SHOPPING

Green bargains fit healthy-eating bill

By Kimberley Pledger

THE bargains of the week are to be found on the green vegetable counter, with English and Dutch cauliflowers at 30p to 60p each.

Other good buys include Brussels sprouts at 20-40p a lb, English spring greens at 14-30p a lb and white cabbage at 15-25p a lb. English watercress is 35-45p a bunch and celery 30-45p a head.

The best fruit bargain is New Zealand kiwifruit at 10-25p each. Satsumas from Spain are 4-18p each, English spartan apples are 30-55p a lb and conference pears are 25-50p a lb.

All the oil-rich fish are in fine condition and well priced this week, particularly sprats which are now available at around 65p a lb. Weekend treats should be easy to find: Cornish red mullet is about £4.20 a lb and monkfish tails £4.00 a lb.

Advertised best buys:

Co-op: pork chops, £1.54 a lb; oranges, 16p each; British porterhouse steak, £3.98 a lb.

Gateway: comice pears, 34p a

lb; onions, 15p a lb; pork loin chops, £1.29 a lb; fresh Scottish salmon, £2.59 a lb.

Harrods: Tunisian sweet dates, £4.50 for 500g bag; dry duck salami, £3.50 for 400g turkey salami Tejonía, £2.15 for 400g.

Iceland: John West red salmon, £1.99 for 418g; smoked haddock fillets, £2.99 for 680g; 5lb chicken quarters, £3.49; two bacon steaks, 99p.

Marks & Spencer: poussin, 99p; four whole plaice, £1.99; ten chicken breast fillets, £7.99; four russet apples, 99p.

Safeway: kiwifruit, 11p each; empire apples, 39p a lb; swede, 15p a lb.

Sainsbury: unsmoked back bacon, £1.45 a lb; sirloin steak, £4.28 a lb; 7lb Grampian frozen chicken, £4.49; aubergines 79p a lb.

Tesco: beef mince, £1.08 a lb; Lincolnshire sausages, 99p a lb; lamb shoulder, £1.09 a lb; Waitrose: 6lb fresh chicken, £5.99; British lamb chops, £2.99p a lb; English boneless pork shoulder, £1.29 a lb; whole salmon £2.99 a lb.

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KEENE on CHESS

By Raymond Keene
CHESS CORRESPONDENT

TODAY I continue with a selection of games from the Fide Championship in Holland between the Dutch grandmaster Jan Timman and the Russian Anatoly Karpov. Game five of the match was a hard-fought draw with both sides having chances to score the full point. This was a game of fluctuating fortunes. On move 32, Timman could have won with 32 Nd4 c5 33 Nxb5 axb5 34 h4 while Karpov could have decided matters in his favour with 38... h5 while again on move 48... Kf6 is much stronger than the move chosen.

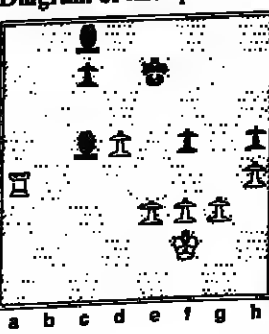
White: Jan Timman
Black: Anatoly Karpov
Fide World Championship, game 5, Holland

English Opening

- | | |
|---------|-----|
| 1 e4 | e5 |
| 2 Nc3 | Nf6 |
| 3 Nc3 | Nf6 |
| 4 g3 | Bc5 |
| 5 Bg2 | O-O |
| 6 O-O | O-O |
| 7 d3 | h6 |
| 8 a3 | a6 |
| 9 b4 | Ba7 |
| 10 Bb2 | Bg4 |
| 11 h3 | Be6 |
| 12 Ph2 | Rc8 |
| 13 Na2 | Qd7 |
| 14 Nc3 | Nd4 |
| 15 Qa4 | Bd7 |
| 16 Qxd7 | Nb6 |
| 17 a3 | Kf7 |
| 18 Ne7+ | dx5 |
| 19 c5 | Ba4 |
| 20 Nc4 | Kf8 |
| 21 Be4+ | Kf8 |
| 22 Bxc5 | Nf6 |

- | | |
|---------|-------------|
| 23 Bf5 | Rf6 |
| 24 Bxf6 | gxf6 |
| 25 Nd5 | Kg7 |
| 26 bxc5 | Bxc5 |
| 27 Rf1 | Bf8 |
| 28 Na5 | b6 |
| 29 Ne6 | Rb7 |
| 30 Rc4 | Bb5 |
| 31 Rg4+ | Ng5 |
| 32 Bg7 | Re6 |
| 33 Bxe6 | Bxc6 |
| 34 Nf4 | h6 |
| 35 Na6+ | Kg8 |
| 36 Nc8 | Bf8 |
| 37 Nxb7 | Bxb7 |
| 38 h4 | f5 |
| 39 Rf4 | Nf3+ |
| 40 Kh3 | Ne5 |
| 41 d4 | Nc4 |
| 42 a4 | Bc8 |
| 43 Rc1 | b5 |
| 44 axb5 | axb5 |
| 45 d5 | Bd6 |
| 46 Rxc4 | bxc4 |
| 47 Rxc4 | Kf7 |
| 48 Kg2 | Ke7 |
| 49 f3 | h5 |
| 50 Kf2 | Bb7 |
| 51 Rd4 | Bc5 |
| 52 Rf4 | Bd8 |
| 53 Ra4 | Bb7 |
| 54 Rf4 | Bc8 |
| 55 Ra4 | Draw agreed |

Diagram of final position



Winning Move, page 48

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Toughest challenge is cash not women, Carey tells synod

By RUTH GLEDHILL
RELIGION CORRESPONDENT

THE Church of England has been living beyond its means for many years, the Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr George Carey, said yesterday.

Dr Carey said that though he had thought the ordination of women priests would be the most important issue of his archbishopric, he now felt the church's financial problems would be "our most daunting and exciting challenge".

In a General Synod debate on the church's £600 million losses over the four years to 1992, mainly through bad management, Dr Carey said that £20 million had to be cut from spending on clergy stipends over the next three years.

This meant that parishioners would have to increase giving by 15 per cent, Dr Carey said.

At present, the commissioners pay £161 million towards the £600 million total ministry bill, with the remainder coming from the dioceses and parishes.

The church is to review the deployment of its 12,000 clergy in 43 dioceses and its organisational structure, the synod was told.

The Lambeth Group enquiry into the management of the church's £2.2 billion assets had been commissioned by Dr Carey after the losses were disclosed. Angry laymen and clergy took the commissioners to task for the mismanagement, protesting that the price would ultimately be paid by the parishes.

Angry clergy and laymen at the General Synod claimed that parishes would pay the price for mismanagement at the top

James Humphrey, of Salisbury, said ordinary churchgoers had reacted thus: "I'll support my parish but I'll be damned before I pay out to the commissioners. It is the commissioners who got us into the mess, let them get us out."

"Why have we not read of mass resignations from the board of the commissioners? They spent tomorrow's capital as today's income. Any professional trustee, following such a policy, would find himself in very hot water very quickly," Mr Humphrey said.

In the Lambeth review, and a simultaneous Coopers & Lybrand report into the asset losses, special criticism was reserved for the management of property investments but no individual was blamed directly. One individual was "invited to leave" the staff in 1991, it emerged later.

Sir Douglas Lovelock, former first church estates commissioner, has retired and been succeeded by Sir Michael Colman, chairman of the mustard group, Reckitt & Colman. Two other members of the assets committee have also been replaced and a new financial secretary has been appointed, the synod was told.

Sir Michael, ex-officio member of the synod, questioned whether the commissioners could ever be believed again. Sir Michael said: "The staff are aware that, in company with the first church estates commissioner and the secretary Patrick Locke, they don't enjoy the full confidence of the governing body [made up of some of the 94 church commissioners]".

Sir Michael promised that there would be an overhaul of communications between staff and commissioners.

The Bishop of Chelmsford, the Right Rev John Waine, said that the commissioners had accepted all the criticisms of the Lambeth review, which he chaired.

Canon John Stanley, of Liverpool, said that the church had been waiting for an apology for the management errors. In all his ministry, he had never known a time of greater stress and uncertainty for the clergy. "Many feel undervalued and for some it has brought a crisis of faith."

Canon Stanley called for checks and balances to be put in place, and "clear accountability" to the church. He said: "Never again must we find ourselves in this situation. I still find it difficult to believe that £380 million could be borrowed without reference to the board of governors."



The Rev Graham Hallam, of Stockport, who is resigning from the General Synod, talks to journalism students at yesterday's debate on church finance

Wildlife advisers press for bigger cut in emissions

By NICK NUTTALL, ENVIRONMENT CORRESPONDENT

HUNDREDS of important wildlife sites could be saved from damage by acid rain if targets for curbing power station emissions were made more exacting, say government advisers.

Researchers at the Joint Nature Conservation Committee say that a small number of sites of special scientific interest (SSSIs) covering a limited area would be saved from the damaging effects of acid rain if 1990 emission levels were cut by 70 per cent. The government's target is 60 per cent.

"But an extra 10 per cent reduction will protect... nearly three times the area," concludes the report by Dr Andrew Farmer, atmospheric pollution specialist at English Nature, and Simon Bareham, pollution officer at the Countryside Council for Wales.

The report precedes a meeting in December of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe to agree on new sulphur emission targets. Britain has indicated that it will stick to its 60 per cent target while other nations are calling for bigger cuts. The findings will increase pressure on officials at the trade and industry and environment departments to back a more ambitious target.

While the report shows this makes sound environmental sense, it could further damage the prospects for coal-fired power stations, the main source of sulphur pollution.

If Britain sticks to its 60 per cent reduction target, 321,420 hectares of SSSIs will remain

vulnerable to acid rain. A 70 per cent reduction would leave 274,171 hectares at risk: sites including heathlands and grasslands in Devon, Humberside, the West Midlands and parts of Dyfed and Powys would be protected.

An 80 per cent cut would reduce the area at risk to 172,933 hectares and would protect sensitive sites across southern and middle England, including nationally important heathland in Surrey, Berkshire and Hampshire, and large areas of Wales.

The number of sites saved also rises as emissions are cut. A 60 per cent reduction leaves 818 SSSIs in England and Wales vulnerable to acid rain, which can damage roots and foliage. A 70 per cent cut would leave 606 vulnerable, but protect such sites as Stiperstones, a heathland in Shropshire.

A cut of 80 per cent would leave 336 at risk, Dr Farmer said. "It is a massive leap. All 60 sites in Dorset for example, including Hardland Moor, are protected."

If the government curbed emissions by 90 per cent, as some continental countries want, all of remaining lowland England and parts of upland England including sensitive areas in the Pennines would be saved.

The Environmental Implications of UK Sulphur Emission Policy Options for England and Wales, by Andrew Farmer and Simon Bareham (The Publications Branch, JNCC, Peterborough; free)

Villagers rally to protect poet's inspiration

By HENRY STANHOPE

FORTY years after the death of Dylan Thomas, the Welsh seaside village from which he drew inspiration is ready to go it alone in its battle with property developers.

People in Oystermouth, just outside the poet's home city of Swansea, have been fighting a £5 million scheme for the past six years. They claim it would ruin their seafront. Swansea City Council planning officers have joined West Glamorgan County Council

planning committee in dropping their objections to the scheme after amendments by the developers. But the residents are complaining that the proposals have hardly changed.

They say the scheme to build luxury flats, shops, a disco, pub, banqueting suite and gymnasium along the seashore would not only blot out Dylan Thomas's "fishing boat bobbing sea," from the mainland but would be out of

keeping with the area. The opposition is being led by Mumbles Community Castle (MCC), whose alternative plan to lay out the site as public gardens has widespread local support.

MCC leaders have been lobbying city councillors in advance of today's emergency planning meeting. "We're not giving up hope even if we have to fight on alone," said Maurice Edwards, who is co-ordinating the campaign.

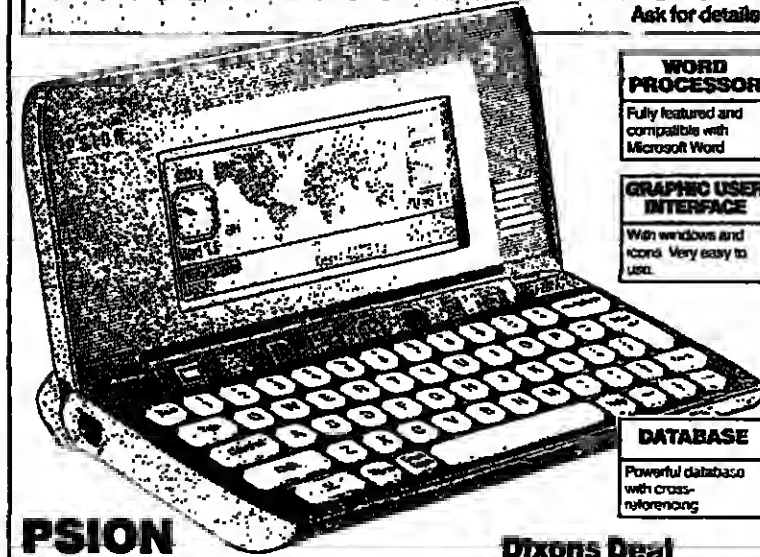


Dylan Thomas penned verses about the village

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Doomsday cult leaders arrested in cathedral cupboard siege

Denim-clad 'Messiah' calls off Kiev judgment day

FROM ANNE MCELVOY IN KIEV

LEADERS of the Slav doomsday cult whose followers ran amok in St Sofia's cathedral, Kiev, on Wednesday were arrested early yesterday, hours before Marina Tsvygun, the self-styled "incarnation of Christ and the Virgin Mary", had promised to commit suicide outside the church to herald the end of the world and the "mass resurrection" prophesied for Sunday.

Miss Tsvygun and Yuri Krivonogov, her second husband, head the Great White Brotherhood, a sect that has attracted thousands of followers. Their increasing hysteria had raised fears of a repeat of the violent end to the cult siege in Waco, Texas, earlier this year. The sect is a mix of

cents who have travelled from Belorussia, Russia, and the rest of Ukraine to Kiev, may attempt to fulfil their suicide pact on Sunday.

Miss Tsvygun had prophesied the end of the world for November 24 but brought the date forward as pressure grew on the cult from security forces and police co-operating with their Russian colleagues and Interpol. Riot police have been stationed on the cathedral square; the church complex was padlocked to prevent a sit-in by cult followers.

Filmed by Ukrainian television soon after her arrest, Miss Tsvygun, who has led the cult for three years, was dressed not as promised by her posters in flowing white robes and a garland but a coloured woollen jumper, denim skirt and what a police spokesman emphatically described as "expensive Western boots". Her eyes darting wildly from side to side, she told, in a high childish voice that often became a gabble of visions, prophecies and bloodshed.

She concluded that the world would not end until after her own death. In other words the day of judgment in Kiev, already having been rescheduled once, is now postponed indefinitely. A former Soviet youth leader, Miss Tsvygun became mentally unstable after an overdose of sedatives during a caesarean abortion.

About 150 people arrested in Wednesday's upheavals await medical assessment in three jails. Another 400 held earlier have been released into the care of their families and ordered to seek medical help.

The events of this week have a poignant edge, since Kiev is the home city of Mikhail Bulgakov, author of *The Master and Margarita*, a story of black magic and bureaucratic confusion in the Stalin years. Yesterday, the interior ministry resembled a scene from the novel as officials rushed to claim credit for the arrests while themselves succumbing to some of the superstitions planted by the cult — one of the ministry's publications warns children not to look into the eyes of sect members for fear of being placed in a trance. Schools have altered timetables to allow children home early. A local pop music station has called on those with extra-sensory powers to use them to persuade the cultists to rejoin society.

The persuaders

Women have made occasional appearances as cult leaders. Joanna Southcott, a farmer's daughter born in 1750 in Devon, is said to have converted 100,000 people to her beliefs. She claimed that voices told her the world was about to end. It is easy to draw parallels between Southcott's world and the current political and social upheavals in Ukraine.

Julia Llewellyn-Smith, page 18

Slavonic occult traditions, twisted biblical prophecies and political and social criticisms of the former Soviet states. The couple who lead it were arrested in their hiding place in the cathedral museum, with 60 devotees in attendance. They fought with police, hurling empty tear-gas canisters, and barricaded themselves inside cupboards before being overcome.

Fifty of the sect's members on Wednesday turned fire extinguishers on the security forces who tried to evict them from the main part of the cathedral. Several 18th-century icons were damaged.

The city of Kiev is still struggling to comprehend the drama being played out around the scenic cathedral square. Investigators are undecided whether to consider the two leaders as insane fanatics or calculated manipulators of extortion and hypnotic techniques. There are still fears that desperate cult members, including many adoles-



Yuri Krivonogov, head of the Great White Brotherhood, the Slav doomsday cult, in a Kiev police station after his arrest during clashes with police yesterday

Opposition accuses Yeltsin of rigging the elections

By MICHAEL BINTON, DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

As President Yeltsin's squeeze tightened on opposition parties, Russian newspapers and senior politicians voiced fears that the president was using authoritarian powers to rig the planned parliamentary elections in his favour.

Sergei Baburin, a nationalist opponent of the president, described the ban on eight political parties, including his own Russian All-People's Union, as part of a campaign to cripple the opposition. He was supported by *Nezavisimaya Gazeta*, a leading liberal newspaper, which said the decree, together with the provisions in the new constitution for presidential emergency powers, would make Mr Yeltsin all-powerful in Russia.

The Central Electoral Committee ruled yesterday that the eight parties could not compete in the election on December 12 because they had failed to meet registration requirements. It said they had broken the regulation that no more than 15,000 signatures could come from any single region.

Mr Yeltsin's opponents angrily accused him of banning only those parties which

opposed him. Mr Baburin said the decision was part of an attempt to blacklist certain politicians who would be excluded from the ballot. He would not give further details of his allegation, however.

Nikolai Ryabov, chairman of the commission, said the union, which combines communist and nationalist forces, had initially collected more signatures than demanded by Moscow. But 22,000 of these were disallowed, and the party failed to collect the overall minimum total of 100,000.

Mr Baburin said, however, that lists of supporters' signatures went missing after a police raid. He said his telephone lines had been cut off and his party offices seized. The union accuses Mr Yeltsin of robbing Russia of its status as a great power.

The 13 parties allowed to compete in the election include ecologists, women's rights groups and collective farmers, as well as some nationalists and communist groupings. Half the 450 seats in the Duma, as the new parliament will be called, will be filled by candidates from party national lists, and the other half

will be directly elected from constituencies.

The main bloc officially supporting Mr Yeltsin is the newly formed Russia's Choice, headed by Yegor Gaidar, the first deputy prime minister, which includes several close aides of the president. It supports a rapid transition to a market economy.

The opposition parties allowed to compete include the Russian Communist party and the Liberal Democratic party, headed by the nationalist extremist Vladimir Zhirinovskiy.

As in the United States, any future president will be elected for a four-year period, and may not serve more than two terms. As in France, he will appoint the prime minister, with the agreement of parliament, and all government ministers.

The president can dissolve the legislature if it fails to approve one of three of his candidates for prime minister or if it passes a vote of no confidence in the government. He can also propose candidates for the chairman of the central bank, all key judges and the prosecutor-general.

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Perot's humiliation over free trade may backfire on Clinton

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER
IN WASHINGTON

THE American media yesterday savaged Ross Perot's performance during his debate with Al Gore, the vice-president, on the North American Free Trade Agreement, and suggested that the Texas tycoon's days as a political force were over. However, that prediction, and President Clinton's forecast of victory in next Wednesday's critical NAFTA vote, could prove dangerously premature.

The debate marked the first time a leading Democrat or Republican had challenged rather than appeased Mr Perot for fear of angering the 19 million who voted for him in last November's presidential election. "Whoosh Goes Perot," "Al Gore's Big Knock-out" and "Gore Flattens Perot" ran yesterday's headlines after the pundits had given themselves 24 hours to reflect on Tuesday's televised debate.

Mr Perot was exposed as a "bossy old billionaire bully who blows his cool when confronted in a fair fight," wrote William Safire in *The New York Times*. Mr Gore allowed "the populist demagogue room to stab himself with the daggers of his own meanness and ego," said *USA Today*.

The *Wall Street Journal* believed "Ross Perot might have fallen through the ropes and out of the American

■ The Democrats are gloating over Ross Perot's fall from grace, but it could lose them votes in the House and cost Bill Clinton the presidency in 1996

political ring altogether". Anna Quindlen, of *The New York Times*, proposed amending NAFTA. "We'll send Ross Perot to Mexico and in return we'll give the Mexicans anything they want as the gift of a grateful nation."

Richard Gephardt, the House Democratic leader, and others spearheading the anti-NAFTA drive distanced themselves from Mr Perot. Mexicans were furious at his depiction of their country as authoritarian, destitute and corrupt. Mr Gore's success boosted the peso and the Mexican stock market, but next Wednesday's NAFTA vote will still be close.

The White House must still win over 20 or more House Democrats, but just as it had begun to gain momentum congressmen yesterday returned to their districts for a four-day recess, exposing them directly to the concerted pressure of the anti-NAFTA forces.

Mr Perot retains a big, fanatical following in the country at large, and his roasting by Washington's media could bolster both his "angry outsider" image and the perception that NAFTA will

benefit the elite but hurt ordinary Americans. His supporters will be out in force, lobbying their congressmen, but Perot supporters are only one element in the extraordinary coalition that has coalesced against NAFTA.

Mr Clinton has formed an unlikely alliance with right-wing Republicans and the conservative talk show host Rush Limbaugh, but the opposition ranges from the isolationist Pat Buchanan on one extreme to the Rev Jesse Jackson on the other, with labour unions, environmentalists and half the Democratic Party leadership in the middle. The unions are also planning mass anti-NAFTA rallies in the districts of wavering congressmen.

The danger in the White House strategy of making the eccentric Mr Perot the personification of the anti-NAFTA movement is that the Texan will take the credit for a spectacular victory if NAFTA is defeated. But Mr Clinton must weigh one other consideration. Destroying Mr Perot, who split last year's Republican vote, could also destroy the president's best chance of re-election in 1996.



James Brady, former White House press secretary, and his wife, Sarah, applauding the House's approval of the Brady bill on gun control as they watched the vote on television

US gun-control lobby claims limited victory

FROM IAN BRODIE IN WASHINGTON

AMERICA'S growing gun-control lobby took heart yesterday from a victory for the Brady bill, but they were also given a stern reminder of the residual and unyielding power of the National Rifle Association (NRA) despite America's epidemic of violent crime.

The Brady bill, named after James Brady, the former White House press secretary who was shot and crippled in the 1981 assassination attempt on Ronald Reagan, would impose a national five-day waiting period on the purchase of hand-guns to allow for checks to be carried out to see whether the prospective purchaser had a criminal record or if there was any evidence of mental instability.

The bill passed in the House of Representatives by 49 votes after a six-year battle, only to be followed by an amendment, added at the urging of the NRA, to cancel the waiting period if a national computerised system to permit instant checks has not been perfected in five years' time.

Wayne LaPierre, head of the NRA, said the amendment, which was passed by 39 votes, was a success for gun-control opponents who regard the Brady bill as opening the way for even stricter gun rules. The bill has yet to pass in the Senate where members have so far given contradictory signals.

All Senators boast of being tough on crime and of wanting to pass a bill that calls for

100,000 more police on the streets and 27 new prisons. At the same time, senators are wary of upsetting the NRA, which does not hesitate to lavish campaign money on candidates for office who are prepared to run against and defeat gun-control incumbents.

The NRA claims to have the American constitution on its side and is forever citing the second amendment's statement about the right to keep and bear arms. However, the NRA seldom quotes the amendment in full because it introduces an element of ambiguity into the argument.

The full amendment says: "A well-regulated militia, being necessary to the security of a free state, the right of the people to keep and bear arms, shall not be infringed." The amendment provides fodder for endless debate, from the odd placement of the commas to the implication that 200 years ago a home guard was needed, presumably in case the British army tried to retake the newly-independent colony.

Meanwhile, the state legislature in Florida voted unanimously to make it illegal for juveniles under 18 to possess firearms and to make parents responsible if their child is caught with one. The measure was introduced in reaction to violent crimes committed by youths, including the recent murders of British and other foreign tourists.

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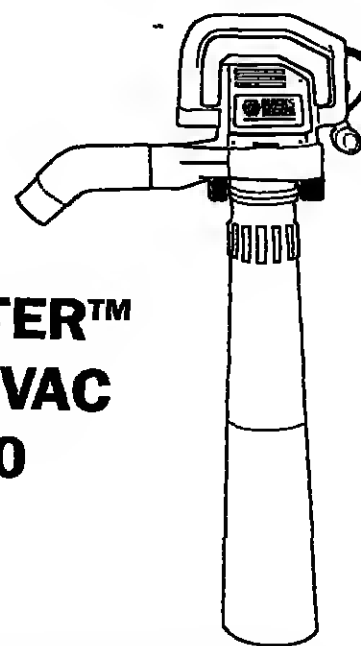
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West claims Tehran and Syria plan cruise missile

■ Military experts claim that European, American and Japanese companies are supplying Iran with components to develop high-technology weapons

By MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

IRAN and Syria are reported to be co-operating over the development of a cruise missile and some of the technology is coming from Europe and Japan.

The latest reports on the drive, particularly by Iran, to build a low-flying missile, capable of carrying a nuclear or chemical warhead, have emerged from an international aerospace exhibition in Dubai. Intelligence sources said that Iran's procurement agency had recently been seeking remotely piloted vehicles, or components to assemble them, possibly to adapt as cruise weapons.

Iranian agencies were reported to have been trying to buy components from British suppliers, but without success. German companies, however, are said to be increasing their sales of dual-use high-technology equipment to Tehran.

Experts at the Dubai show said it would be possible to develop the guidance system of remotely piloted vehicles with satellite-linked navigation to produce a relatively accurate cruise missile. According to reports in Tehran, Iran's heavy industries ministry has earmarked more than \$2 billion (£1.3 billion) to acquire sophisticated machine tools for high precision weapons manufacture.

Unlike Iran, Syria has not developed a large-scale defence manufacturing industry and is increasingly co-operat-

ing with Iran. Tehran is already building its own tactical surface-to-surface missiles and assembling Scud-C ballistic missiles supplied by North Korea. The Iranians are also funding a long-range Scud-based weapon, the Nodong 1, with North Korea in return for missile technology.

At a military exhibition in Abu Dhabi last year, Russia for the first time displayed its air-launched cruise missile, the AS15, an anti-ship version armed with a conventional warhead. It aroused great interest.

According to a recent Pentagon report on missile proliferation, low-flying cruise missiles are becoming the priority proliferation threat. The report said that Syria, Iran and China would have cruise missiles with some stealth capabilities between 2000 and 2010.

America is developing anti-ballistic missile systems against the threat posed by Third World countries acquiring ballistic missiles. There has been some criticism that not enough attention has been focused on the need to defend against cruise missiles.

Intelligence sources confirmed that Iran's procurement agency, with the blessing of President Rafsanjani, was continuing to make secret deals with a growing network of arms contacts in countries such as China, North Korea, Pakistan and Switzerland. In September the US House of Representatives' foreign affairs subcommittee on international security uncovered a network of 230 companies including firms in America, Europe and Japan, which had sold technology and equipment to Iran that could be used for the manufacture of chemical, nuclear or biological weapons.

□ Cairo: More than 15,000 troops will participate in joint US-Egyptian land, sea and air exercises starting this weekend. The force will comprise 6,500 Americans and 11,000 Egyptians. (AP)



Rafsanjani: secret deals with arms suppliers

Pro-Peking newspapers welcome the tone of talks

FROM JONATHAN MIRSKY IN HONG KONG

THE relatively conciliatory approach of Douglas Hurd, the foreign secretary, and Chris Patten, governor of Hong Kong, to negotiations with China on the colony's future has been welcomed by Peking's supporters here, but it alarmed some officials who fear the Chinese may be getting a "spongy message".

One of Peking's main conduits in Hong Kong, the Wen Wei Po newspaper, was pleased that Wednesday's cabinet meeting no longer emphasised breaking off talks but concentrated on finding points of agreement with China. It said it was useless for Britain to play "the international card" against China, now that Peking's leaders were meeting Helmut Kohl, the German chancellor, and President Clinton. It was in Britain's economic interest in Hong Kong to seek co-operation with China.

Another newspaper with pro-Peking leanings, the Economic Daily, tried to drive wedges between Mr Patten and the prime minister, and between Mr Hurd and other ministers, claiming that only the governor wanted to take unilateral action in Hong Kong. A more positive attitude, the newspaper said, could lead to an agreement.

More independent papers noted that, despite Mr Patten's previous contention that the 1994 and 1995 elections could not be negotiated separately, it was now being admitted in London that such a separation might be possible.

□ Peking: China and Russia yesterday signed a five-year deal on defence co-operation, but the pact did not include arms sales or joint weapons production. (AP)

Bernard Levin, page 20

Hong Kong negotiator to lead diplomats

By MICHAEL BINTON AND MICHAEL DYNES

JOHN Major told an international business conference that Asia would be a central focus of British foreign policy for the next generation. Britain was determined to take advantage of the predicted huge economic growth in Asia and would also have to brace itself for a test of nerves with China over Hong Kong.

It is no coincidence therefore that Douglas Hurd, the foreign secretary, has chosen Sir John Coles, who is responsible for negotiations with Peking, as the new head of the Foreign Office. Sir John will take the helm at one of the most challenging periods of the Foreign Office's history, with huge budget cuts that may force losses of several diplomats and the elimination of at least a dozen British embassies.

The Foreign Office has announced that Sir John, the deputy under-secretary of state for Asia and America, will take over as permanent under-secretary - the effective head of the Foreign Office - next August on the retirement of Sir David Gilmore.

Sir John, described by colleagues as a "can-do diplomat" whose main strength is in the analysis and development of policy, served as British ambassador to Jordan from 1984-8 and was high commissioner in Canberra from 1988-91.

He will have to implement lessons from the Scott enquiry into the arms to Iraq affair. Sweeping changes will have to be made in the chaotic distribution of intelligence from the security services to ministers and officials. This, coupled with pressure for open government and civil service accountability, will shake the traditional pattern of diplomacy.

Car runs like a Dream on road to the sun



Honda's Dream car makes its way through traffic in Adelaide, Australia, yesterday en route to setting a world record and winning a solar car race across Australia's sun-scorched outback. Jubilant Honda

officials forecast production of solar-assisted cars by 1998. The Dream completed the 1,870 mile, 52-car race from Darwin on the northern tip of Australia in 35.38 hours. The Dream, a £6.6 million, three-year

project, averaged 52.5 mph. Takahiro Iwata, Honda team manager, said the technology used for Dream and the results from the race would help in the production of zero-emission cars being built to

meet new strict California pollution regulations set for 1998. The cars would bear little resemblance to the Dream, and solar energy most likely would be used to assist rechargeable batteries, he said. (Reuters)

NEWS IN BRIEF

Tamils 'killed 200 troops'

Colombo: Military sources said more than 200 army and navy personnel were feared dead after a dawn attack by guerrillas on two army bases in northern Sri Lanka yesterday (Vijitha Yapa writes). Fighting was continuing last night.

Tamil Tiger guerrillas attacked the Nagavannurai and Pooneryn camps after crossing the Jaffna lagoon in boats. One military source said some of the rebels were dressed in army uniform and took troops by surprise.

Deadline nears

Johannesburg: As today's self-imposed deadline approached, constitutional negotiators committed South Africa to 11 official languages, including English and Afrikaans, and to abolishing detention without trial.

Flawed beauty

Beirut: Ghada Turk, the Lebanese beauty queen, may face court action after she posed for photographs alongside Miss Israel in the Miss World pageant in Johannesburg. Lebanon is still technically at war with Israel. (AP)

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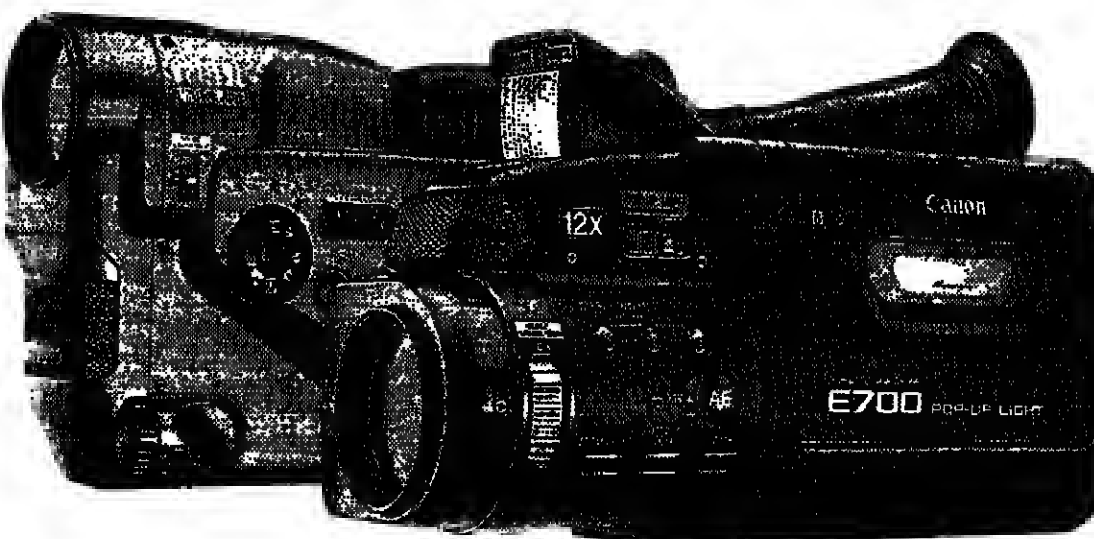
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Kohl sweeps aside critics with pledge on European unity

FROM ROGER BOYES IN BONN

HELMUT Kohl, the German chancellor, yesterday stamped on his critics within the Bonn government's coalition and pledged Germany's support for European political union.

He made a verbal nod to each of his critics and singled out Baroness Thatcher in a keynote speech on European policy delivered to the Bundestag. The anxieties of the Eurosceptics had to be addressed, said the chancellor, but in the end Germany had no other option than to be part of a more thoroughly integrated Europe. "We know and we won't forget how much we owe to the process of European unification," said Herr Kohl.

A full-scale argument about Germany's role in Europe has recently broken out in the Bonn government, triggered by the Bavarian prime minister, Edmund Stoiber. Herr Stoiber, worried about losing votes to the resolutely anti-Maastricht, far-right parties in next year's European elections, has denounced further moves towards a European federal state. He has accused the chancellor of having an outdated view of Europe and emphasised that the pace of integration should be slower.

Herr Kohl took some of the criticisms on board, and dis-

missed others out of hand. The decision to site the future European Central Bank in Frankfurt showed, he said, that Germany needs not be worried about the mark. "The future European currency must be as stable as the mark," said Herr Kohl.

A tighter Europe did not translate into German domination of the continent. "We should not overlook that our neighbours are worried about a powerful Germany — a too powerful Germany in Margaret Thatcher's words," said Herr Kohl. "Recent history — remembered again this week (the 55th anniversary of anti-Jewish pogroms) — showed how careful we must be."

Some of the foreign criticism derived, he said, from economic envy. "That, too, is a fact of life, whether we like it or not." As Europe moved closer together, Germany would have to soothe and reassure neighbours at every stage, said the chancellor.

Europe brought concrete benefits for the Germans and as the country's mood swings against tighter integration, the Germans should not forget the fact, said Herr Kohl. The Europol organisation — co-ordinating European police activities — would help reduce crime in Germany. The Com-

mission would help create jobs. Trade within Europe was crucial for the country's economic health. "Every third job in Germany depends on exports. One-third of our gross domestic product comes from exports — and three-quarters of these exports are bought by European partners." Above all, Community membership had reduced the risk of another continental war. His domestic critics, the chancellor said, had overlooked this dimension. After the establishment of the first unified Germany, there were 43 years of peace.

"Today we have already had 48 years of peace since the last war. We will only have absolute certainty that this will continue if we do not neglect efforts to integrate Europe." □ Frankfurt: Authorities tightened security at German prisons yesterday and put jailed Red Army Faction terrorists under special 24-hour guard to prevent them from carrying out a mass suicide pact. Justice officials in Munich in southern Germany and in Kiel in northern Germany confirmed they had evidence that hardcore members of the guerrilla group planned to kill themselves in a co-ordinated action on November 11. (AP)



Marcel Marceau, the French mime artist, playing his celebrated character Bip yesterday at the Espace Cardin in Paris during rehearsals for today's launch of his new company. Marceau, 70, disbanded his last company in 1964 to embark on a solo career

German leader pushes for invitation to D-Day party

BY ROGER BOYES

THE cold shoulder shown to Bonn in its attempts to get an invitation to next year's D-Day celebration has unleashed a debate about the assertive approach by Helmut Kohl, the German chancellor, to repackaging German history.

Herr Kohl — and Steffen Heitmann, his favoured candidate for president — stress

that it is time for Germany to be treated on an equal footing with the victors of the second world war. This is unsettling Germany's neighbours, its former victims, and its present allies. If a country at the centre of the century's two great wars starts to tinker with its history, then all the other combatant nations are affected.

The D-Day row is a case in point. This year Germany

quietly sought an invitation from Paris to attend celebrations on June 6, 1994. The Socialist government in Paris tried to wriggle out of the problem by saying that the association of veterans, resistance fighters and deportees was against German participation. The change of French government in March briefly gave Germany cause for hope, but when that attempt, too, seemed to be doomed,

Bonn withdrew. Britain, too, is against German participation, but word from the chancellor's office is that Herr Kohl has now made the issue a top priority. Plainly the German leader hopes to gain some political advantage. The invited leaders include the Queen, President Clinton and President Walesa, while the host is President Mitterrand — a very attractive photo opportunity at a time when

the chancellor's Christian Democrats will be fighting for votes in European elections. □ Bonn: David Irving, the right-wing British historian, has been barred from Germany. Mr Irving visited Munich this week, intending to address supporters of far-right parties on the 55th anniversary of the Nazi pogroms against Jews.

Armistice Day, page 1

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Doom casts pall over Disney's magic kingdom

FROM CHARLES BREMNER IN PARIS

DOOM, at least of the fictional kind, was the biggest attraction at Euro Disney outside Paris yesterday as visitors took advantage of a bank holiday and rare sunshine to taste the delights of a kingdom sorely in need of magic.

Indiana Jones et le Temple du Péril, which opened earlier this year with the obligatory Gallicised name, was the top ride for crowds whose small numbers spoke volumes for the miscalculation and plain bad luck which have pushed the European flagship of American culture deep into the red and prompted talk that it could sink forever.

There was little crowing yesterday over the park's colossal 5.34 billion francs (£613 million) losses among French commentators who have had so much fun taking the Mickey over Disney's European pretensions. There was just concern that an eventual collapse could turf 11,000 more people out of jobs.

Weeks of tense negotiation are expected between the banks, which invested 10 billion francs (£1.15 billion) and the Walt Disney parent company, to find a way to inject more funds to keep the business afloat. The experts say that Disney's management could eventually decide to cut their losses and close the park rather than throw more good money after bad.

If the enterprise can be tided over through the spring, as its executives assume, Euro Disney will live or die on its ability to adapt to the European habits and tastes that it so blithely ignored when it launched its kingdom in Marne-la-Vallée in the mid-1980s. While Philippe Bour-

guignon, the French boss, is blaming recession, high interest rates and the depressed property market, the experts add that the company just did not do its homework.

The directors of Disney were sure the French and the Europeans would react just like the Americans and the Japanese. They behaved like trappers in the tundra," according to Georges Panayotis, head of the French marketing firm MKG.

The mistakes are now legend, starting with the



Harrison Ford: star of Indiana Jones films

choice of site. With glowering grey skies and rain for much of the year, it is hard to weave the magic that enchants visitors. Spain, many say, would have been a better choice. Above all, though, the obstacle has been the high charges which act as a powerful damper on pleasure. Many have calculated that they can take the family to Florida's Disney World for little more than an outing to the Paris version.

Peter Brookes, page 20
Leading article, page 21

Pope suffers fracture in fall at Vatican

BY OUR FOREIGN STAFF

THE POPE suffered a fractured shoulder joint and a dislocated shoulder yesterday when he tripped and fell during a Vatican audience, the Holy See said in a statement.

The pontiff, 73, who was taken to the Gemelli hospital in Rome, was given a general anaesthetic to correct the dislocation of his shoulder. The Vatican statement said the Pope's right shoulder was put in a soft cast, which he will have to wear for about a month.

The statement said the doctors' diagnosis was "a traumatic dislocation of the front right shoulder with a coexisting fracture of the glenoid" — the socket of the shoulder joint.

The pope was to remain in hospital overnight and will return to his Vatican quarters this morning, the statement said. The pontiff

tripped and fell yesterday afternoon as he descended three steps from the papal throne to greet a delegation of United Nations officials.

The pope was under general anaesthesia for 15 minutes during the treatment, but it took about four minutes to put the bones in place, said Dr Joaquín Navarro-Valls, for the Vatican. The pontiff was awake and joking with doctors by yesterday evening.

Priests and nuns gathered at the hospital and some patients left their beds to enquire about the pope's condition. "There is no reason for alarmism," said Dr Navarro-Valls. "The pope is all right."

The pontiff cancelled a meeting with American bishops that was scheduled for late yesterday, but was expected to resume his normal activities.

هكذا من الأصل

UN chief in former Yugoslavia insists time is drawing near for use of force

Winter and war put 4m lives at risk, US asserts

By EVE-ANN PRENTICE, JOEL BRAND IN SARAJEVO AND OUR FOREIGN STAFF

IN A devastatingly bleak warning about the effects of war and the onset of winter, America said yesterday that the lives of more than four million people were at risk in the former Yugoslavia.

At the same time General Jean Cot, commander of United Nations troops in the former Yugoslavia, said peacekeepers in Bosnia were on the point of using force to defend themselves from repeated attacks by all sides. In Zagreb, the Croatian capital, he said: "I think we have reached the limit of acceptable interference from the parties."



Cot troops are under attack from all sides

who are handicapping and hampering the movement of humanitarian convoys. There is no doubt we are approaching the point where force will have to be used."

UN troops are, however, already opening fire in defence. Major Idesbald van Biesebroeck, a UN Protection Force spokesman, said yesterday that Scandinavian troops had been forced to retreat from Ravne in Bosnia after

coming under artillery attack from Serb troops.

In Sarajevo, French troops responded with 20mm cannon after coming under sniper fire. Nearby, another contingent of UN troops came under small-arms fire and responded with heavy machineguns, he said.

General Cot, discussing a more widespread use of force to get aid convoys through, said: "There is no excuse for intervening with force before we have the means to do so." He repeated calls for more troops for the UN Protection Force, which has about 25,000 soldiers in former Yugoslavia.

In Washington, the State Department said that 4.25 million lives were in danger as the usually grueling winter set in. Of these nearly 2 million were in Bosnia.

Michael McCurry, the State Department spokesman, said: "The magnitude of the humanitarian crisis... reminds us of the importance and the necessity of returning to a political dialogue that can help the three parties in conflict in Bosnia resolve their fighting."

The Clinton administration estimates that 690,000 people are at risk in Croatia, 110,000 in several UN-protected areas of the former Yugoslav federation, 565,000 affected by international sanctions on Serbia, another 82,000 in Montenegro, 27,000 in Macedonia and 45,000 in Slovenia. Officials are considering several ways of easing their suffering.

UN relief organisations are preparing for a winter of suffering in Bosnia, where fighting between Bosnian and Croat forces, previously allied, and the mainly Muslim government army bodes disaster



Bosnian Serb soldiers searching a man suspected of being a Muslim fighter in the town of Sanski Most in central Bosnia-Herzegovina. Eleven alleged Muslim soldiers were caught trying to infiltrate the area

for aid work. Virtually all convoys from the UN warehouses at Metkovic in southern Croatia have stopped as a result of the death of a UN worker outside Novi Travnik, central Bosnia, when a convoy was attacked. The warring sides are refusing passage even to basic materials essential for winter preparations, such as pipes and nails, condemning many refugees to freezing misery.

Last year it was predicted that hundreds of thousands would die from cold and hunger, but a huge humanitarian effort prevented so large a catastrophe. This winter the cold will be a bigger problem than food or medicines, Doug Houston, an Overseas Development Administration official, said.

The children finally left early in the afternoon for

Ancona. Doctors said the boy, Adis, would probably not be affected by the delay. They were less optimistic about the girl, Sonja, whose wounds were more serious.

The two children were among some 20 wounded when a mortar shell exploded in the entrance of a makeshift school in a high-rise residential area in the west of the city. Shrapnel from the blast hit children waiting outside for the next class to begin, and tore through plywood walls, striking those inside.

As Adis and Sonja left Sarajevo with their families, a bus convoy of more than 100 Serbs also left. They had been denied permission to leave for Croatia until rebel Serbs outside Sarajevo released two Bosnian policemen taken from a religious delegation travel-

ling in UN armoured vehicles on Monday.

The two ethnic Croat policemen were arrested as "war criminals" and taken to a Serb military base after a tense stand-off between Serb tanks and soldiers and the handful of French UN troops in the armoured vehicles.

A Croat member of Bosnia's collective presidency, meanwhile, said the Muslim-led government had ordered its army to stop making offensives on Croat enclaves in central Bosnia.

Stjepan Kijacic made the announcement as Mate Granic, the Croatian foreign minister, prepared to visit Sarajevo today for talks on the conflict between government troops and separatist Bosnian Croat forces supported by Croatia.

Chetnik fans of Beatles inflict a hard day's night

By EVE-ANN PRENTICE

THE Chetniks were in a boisterous mood as the train brought them home from the war in Bosnia. "Who is the aggressor, who is the aggressor in Mostar?" one said angrily. But it was not intended as a question - Croatia was to blame.

The Chetniks, extreme nationalist Serbs held responsible for widespread rape, murder and "ethnic cleansing" in Bosnia, are concerned for their image abroad. As these comrades-in-arms travelled to Belgrade for a few days' leave, they were curious but suspicious over finding a foreigner sharing their compartment. "Are you a spy? Are you German or English?" they demanded, volunteering that they were based near Mostar and reiterating that the Croats were the real villains.

The 12-hour night journey through Montenegro, Bosnia

created now seems to be slipping out of his control. The Chetniks on the train spat out his name; their hero now is Vojislav Seselj, the leader of the extremist Serbian Radical Party.

A full moon rose as the train made a worm-like progress through spectacular mountains. "You have children?" one who spoke English asked. "Women have one role, to have children. We need more Chetnik soldiers," he said, holding his stomach out in mimicry of a pregnant woman. Reports of rape in Bosnia rose in the mind.

The Chetniks sang more lustily with every gulp of liquor, but their lager-lout noisiness drew genuine smiles from two civilians who joined our carriage for part of the journey. When the soldiers grew ever more suspicious about the presence of a foreigner and repeatedly said there was a spy among them, I said I was an Irish nurse. Their hostility waned.

"Does that mean you like all people... you like Turkish people as well as Serbs?" they asked, but now with tolerant amusement over the concept of anyone liking the Muslims. "We like IRA, good soldiers," they added, starting to show off their wounds, bullet and shell scars in arms and abdomens.

When we crossed into Serbia they began to talk of their families and their aggression almost evaporated. They shared a packet of United Nations ration biscuits and bought me coffee. "I will see my two sons," said the English-speaker. "My wife is finished with me" - he spat on the ground - "she says I am bad for being Chetnik. But my sons will be good Chetniks."

Their earlier nationalist songs gave way to the Beatles and Bob Dylan. "I like Bob Marley songs, but I have problem. He is nigger. I don't like niggers. But they have good songs," the English-speaker said, then shrugged. He gave me his silver Chetnik badge in exchange for the written words of the Beatles' Yesterday.

The train pulled into Belgrade and the English-speaker arranged to meet me for coffee two nights later to discuss nursing. I very much hope he did not turn up.



and Serbia was punctuated by unscheduled and unexplained stops. In March, 25 Muslims were reported to have been abducted from a train on the same line. Montenegrin officials are still investigating the kidnapping after witnesses reported that the Muslims were taken from the train by Serb militiamen wearing the uniform of the Tigers paramilitary group led by Zeljko Raznjajevic, known as Arkan. Now, months later, something of the strange psychology of the Chetniks emerged during our journey. They seemed to be classic examples of people brainwashed into blind race hatred, boorish and brutish on the subject of Muslims and Croats. Serb ultra-nationalism has been fostered by Slobodan Milosevic, the Serbian president, but the monster he



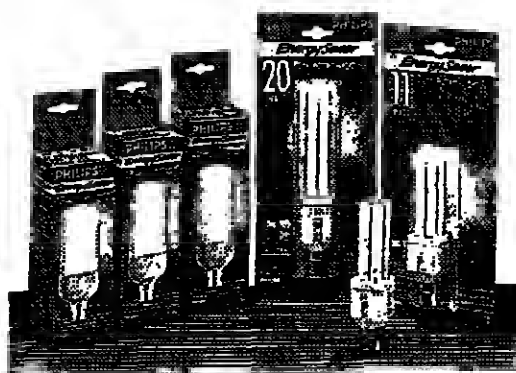
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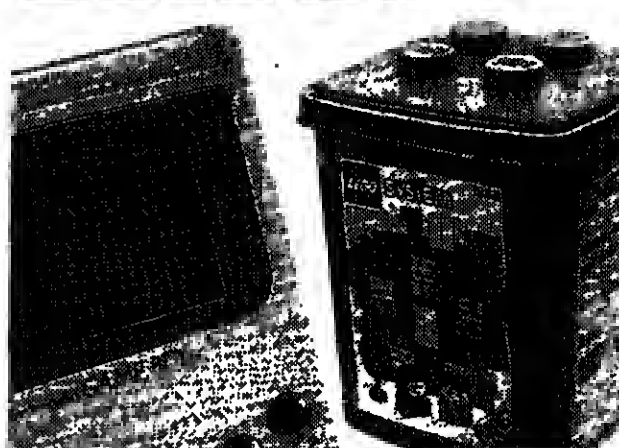
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Ukraine's apocalyptic female cult has ancient roots

When a woman finds a direct line to God

Women in cults never seem to get a good deal. While the men are out graphically describing the day of judgment, they are cooking, cleaning and at all times sexually available to their leader.

John of Leyden, the leader of Anabaptists of Münster in the 16th century, is said to have killed one of his many wives by jumping up and down on top of her.

Until Aids became an acknowledged threat, women members of the American cult of the Children of God were known as Hookers for Jesus and instructed to have unprotected sex with as many men as possible, with the aim of raising church funds and breeding new members. David Koresh, who died in the inferno at Waco, Texas earlier this year, had fathered children by several members of his cult.

In Kiev, however, something unusual is taking place. Thousands of members of the Great White Brotherhood have been vandalising the city's churches, proclaiming that the end of the world is nigh and expecting their leader to die today and be resurrected on Sunday. Standard cult behaviour in every way, except that their leader Marina Tsvygun, aka Maria Devi Khristos, is a woman.

Tsvygun may be unusual, but she is by no means unique. Throughout history women have made occasional appearances as cult figureheads. In 15th-century Italy, a small group of men and women known as Guglielmite followed a woman called Guglielma — whom they believed to be the herald of a new all-female church, headed by a woman pope and with a woman God. Women held responsible posts in the Gnostic church and among the pacifist Cathars. In the early days of the Quaker movement, women risked terrible punishment by preaching outside Oxford and Cambridge colleges.

Mother Ann Lee led the Shakers to the New World, where they founded societies based on female equality, communal property and celibacy.

Best known of all, perhaps, was Joanna Southcott (of the famous box), a farmer's daughter born in 1750 in Devon, who is said to have converted 100,000 people to her beliefs. She died in 1814 after a phantom pregnancy, when she claimed to be carrying the Messiah. Followers were still recorded recently.

A study of Southcott's life shows her to have performed a role close to that of the village witch — she knew charms for toothache and cures for the sickness of cows; she could predict thunderstorms and interpret dreams. She claimed that voices told her the world was about to end, appropriately close to the millennium, and the suffering of

the times encouraged many to believe her. The French wars raged, harvests failed and thousands of country people were becoming wage labour in the new mills and factories of the towns.

After Southcott's death, the church leadership was taken over by John Wroe, who decreed the number of petticoats women members might wear — and demanded that his congregation provide him with sexual favours.

It is easy to draw parallels between Southcott's world and the social and political upheaval in today's Ukraine. Southcott promised her followers the evils brought upon the world by men would soon be ended. Redemption this time would come through a woman (herself) and God would favour women in his second kingdom because they had been abused in the first. She attacked the established church for its wealth and promised liberty and equality for all in Christ's new kingdom.

According to Karen Armstrong, the author of *The End of Silence: Women and Priesthood*, a history of women in the church, women are used by cults to establish their difference from traditional Christianity. "None of the world religions has been good to women, even though some of the founders were very fair to them," she says. "Islam gave women rights to inheritance and divorce in the 7th century. Jesus and St Paul gave women a very positive image and recognised them as leaders and disciples." However, the early teachings were largely ignored, and the Christian church in particular relegated women to second place.

Ms Armstrong says that fundamentalist movements often make particular use of women. "Many movements like the Children of God pay great attention to putting women into second place. It is their way of saying 'we reject the secular society and women's liberation and want to go back to the days of Luther'."

To Tsvygun, no doubt, the fact that she is a woman is immaterial. "It is significant that she was a former communist youth leader," says Norman Cohn, the author of *The Pursuit of the Millennium*, a study of apocalyptic cults.

"Cult leaders are always very skilful operators and manipulators. They may or may not believe what they are saying, but they say it with genuine conviction and their followers, who feel let down by traditional society, will project all their hopes onto this confident person, who promises a perfect world. Cults always fail because these promises can never be realised."

JULIA LLEWELLYN SMITH



Marina Tsvygun



A flavour of England — Fiona Burrell of the Prue Leith cookery school, where young Englishwomen are turned into internationally respected cooks

Only a dash of Sloanery

The English woman chef is no longer a joke figure — even Madonna has one. Rachel Kelly reports

It was enough to make *Country Life* readers choke over their kippers. There, in the traditional girls in pearls slot, was one Lucia — commonly known as Lulu — Grimes, "winner of the 1994 Mott & Chandon Award for the best all-round graduate from Leith's School of Food and Wine".

So far, well and good. Nice gels have long majored in hunting, shooting and cooking... but not for Madonna. For, as the magazine went on to inform its readers, young Miss Grimes is "presently on tour as Madonna's personal chef".

Her responsibilities are awesome. She must cater for the vagaries of the pop-star's macrobiotic diet of seaweed soup and sesame and buckwheat-flour pancakes, their proportions balanced to provide appropriate "yin" and "yang". She must cook for Madonna's 25 crew. She must hop from São Paulo to Rio, from Mexico City to Los Angeles, and Sydney, to

stock and Le Creuset pots in tow. And all the while missing her Royal Navy officer boyfriend, her favourite pudding, believed to be spotted dick, and her parents in Dulverton, Somerset.

These girls are as hard-working and as disciplined as any merchant banker or lawyer. They have been trained at "college" (no one goes to cooking school these days) and they have often paid the fees themselves. A year-long course at Leith's costs £7,200 and in many cases Mummy no longer shells out. But it's an investment, say the girls in City-speak.

At their ovens by seven, they often put in 14-hour days. They are ambitious and can be well-paid: starting salaries range between £10,000 and £20,000. They will travel. They talk of careers. They wear business suits to interviews (Armani copies); read *Australian Vogue*, the bible of stylish cooks everywhere — and know their Langan's from their Leith's, and their Boulestin's from their Kensington Places. Thai, Indian, French, rustic-Italian, new age macrobiotic — you name it, they'll cook it. Kim Davenport runs Eat Your Hearts Out, a catering

COUNTRY LIFE



Lucia "Lulu" Grimes

agency which finds girls for clients such as Madonna. "These are women who want to earn their living out of cooking," she says. "They are not the cocktail party set."

The girls work in restaurants and hotels, catering companies and as personal chefs round the world and particularly on yachts in Cannes, Bel Childs, principal of Tante Marie college of cooking in Woking, says that her girls work for members of our own royal family, European royals and wealthy families as far afield as Tokyo. As once only an English governess was acceptable, now it has to be an English cook.

Fergie school of cooking. I don't know if the Duchess of York ever did cook as a chalet-girl, but she perfectly conjures up the genre. Even a decade ago, English cooks meant Sloanery girls who could just stretch to cooking fish, but preferred the meat and two vegs they were more regularly required to produce. For cooking school read finishing school.

Frances Bissell, *The Times* cook, says the rise of professional female cooks had to wait until prejudice against them had faded. Ever since Escoffier's time, the cliché has been that men, and French men in particular, are better cooks than women. In the early 17th century, Queen Henrietta Maria ensured that she was surrounded by chefs from her native France. Later, French influence spread again when émigrés came to England after the Revolution.

The industrial revolution took a further toll of our native tradition of home cuisine as people went out to work, leading to a demand for ready-made food. Long years of wartime rationing meant that a rich British culinary tradition almost died. This century, the long ap-

prenticeship and unsociable hours of a chef have kept women out of professional kitchens. "The catering world has still not latched onto job-sharing," Mrs Bissell says.

However, she believes that in the past few years, the view abroad of British cooking has been transformed. "Everywhere I've cooked abroad, the people are very enthusiastic about English recipes." When Le Meridien, a bastion of Gallic cooking, decided on a short promotion, it invited Michel Roux and Raymond Blanc to cook an English dinner. Recently, British chefs were invited to prepare a British dinner at the Georges V, in Paris. Even La Varenne, among the most famous of French schools, is run by an Englishwoman.

With the rehabilitation of British cuisine has come the rise of English women cooks such as Sally Clarke and Prue Leith, inspired in part by the tradition of cookery writers like Elizabeth David. Fiona Burrell, co-principal of the Prue Leith cookery school, says: "Women used to cook in the home and country houses, but they were not taken as professionals outside the home." Now they are being accepted as professionals, and stylish ones too, by those as fashion-conscious as Madonna. No doubt they will soon be photographed in *The Face*.

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7DW. All entries must be received by Thursday November 18, 1993.

The winners and runners-up will be picked at random from all correct entries received and will be printed in *The Times* on Saturday, November 20. The terms and conditions of entry were published in *The Times* on Monday, November 8.

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TODAY'S QUESTION

5. In which country was the composer of the famous "In an English Country Garden" born?

If you have missed any of the questions printed this week, we will repeat all five questions tomorrow.

Thirty years after the shooting, Kate Muir meets the president's PR man

I watched Kennedy die

At 11.40am on November 22, 1963, President John F. Kennedy and his wife Jackie walked down the steps of Air Force 1 into a warm blast of Texan air and the cheers of a smiling crowd, six deep, lining the roads to downtown Dallas. Just over three hours later, Jackie Kennedy was on Air Force 1 again, being photographed beside Lyndon Johnson as the 36th president took the oath of office while her husband lay in a coffin in the next cabin.

While the world reeled in horror and wept that day 30 years ago, the presidential PR machine rolled on. At the left side of that second scene is a small man, barely noticeable, who not only watched the peculiar events which followed Kennedy's death, but helped to mould them. His name is Jack Valenti, and he became the political spin doctor for the day, long before the concept was invented.

Earlier in the day, Mr Valenti had been in the sixth car in the presidential motorcade through the city, a local man in charge of press relations in Texas, where he ran one of the first political advertising agencies which helped Kennedy to his slim victory in 1960. "As we went further downtown, the faces became friendlier, the cheers louder. I don't know how it could have been better at that particular moment," Mr Valenti says.

"Suddenly, as we were turning on to Dealey Plaza, where the Texas school book depository was, the car in front shot forward like it was on a speedway." At that moment, depending on which conspiracy theory is favoured, bullets had hit the president and Governor John Connally in the open-top limousine, and the motorcade started racing to the hospital.

There, everyone was milling around in the basement in a state of near-hysteria. A secret serviceman beckoned to Mr Valenti, told him that Lyndon



Jack Valenti, arrowed, in one of the abiding images of the day Kennedy was shot

Johnson wanted him immediately on Air Force 1 and added: "The president is dead, you know." Mr Valenti, then 44, began to cry. "It just hit me. The serviceman said, 'Compose yourself, we've gotta go.'"

When they arrived at Love Field airport, the presidential aeroplane had been moved to a far corner and was heavily guarded: at first, no one had any idea whether the assassination was part of a wider Cold War plot. The vice president told Mr Valenti he wanted him on his staff immediately. They would create the right image of the presidency and America's response to the crisis for the world to see.

Mr Valenti's first job was to call Washington to scribble down the exact words of the swearing-in oath. "Johnson agreed to two decisions. One was that he should be sworn in on the aeroplane and have the picture flashed around the world, to show that the light in the White House may flicker, but the light never goes out; that the constitutional strappings which bind the country together remain intact. The second decision was to ask Mrs Kennedy to stand next to him to show that the Kennedy legacy lived on."

"This woman," says Mr Valenti pointing to Mrs Ken-

edy in her pink suit in the picture, "was almost in a catatonic state. You can see this strange look on her face, her eyes cast down. When you looked in them, they were opaque. She'd look at you but she wasn't seeing you. This dress is all flecked with her husband's blood and white flecks of her husband's brain that had splattered on her. She refused to remove it. Nightmare."

By their actions they made sure — against Robert Kennedy's advice — that Mr Johnson landed in Washington as the president of the United States. "We decided to wait until the coffin was on board instead of flying straight off so no one could say we left Kennedy behind."

The photograph became one of the abiding images of that day, and few realised how carefully it was thought out. "Johnson had never studied the art or science of semiotics, but he understood myth and symbol." During the flight, Valenti helped write the 57-word speech President Johnson gave on the tarmac at Washington.

He says there were two moods on the plane. "One was the sense of the macabre. How could this happen? Had it

really happened? Yet the other was about getting ready to command. LBJ called Rose Kennedy, the president's mother, and talked to Bobby, man-to-man about it, but he had a larger task, he had to govern this country."

That night, after Mr Valenti made his first visit to the White House by landing by helicopter on the south lawn, they sat in the bedroom. President Johnson in his pyjamas, watching television reports on John Kennedy, assessing coverage of the "alien cowboy" who had now taken his job. The new president said he wanted to push through Kennedy's civil rights bill, and stayed up until 3am, outlining "his plans for what became the Great Society, though we did not know it then."

Last year Mr Valenti — who is now the president of the Motion Picture Association of America — met Mrs Kennedy Onassis for the first time in years when she edited and published his novel at Doubleday. She mentioned that she had been given as long as she liked to vacate the White House after her husband's death. "The Johnsons," she said, "were so kind."

● Jack Valenti appears in *As It Happened: The Killing of Kennedy* on Channel 4 at 7pm on Sunday.

هكذا من الأصل

What drives Peter Lilley to scorn the politically correct and tackle benefit dependency from scratch?

'Single mothers may be inadequate, but at least they are there, looking after the child'

Peter Lilley cuts a slight figure in his ballroom-sized office in Whitehall, with his pinkish lamp and plush carpets and swagged drapes in pastel shades. All ministries, he points out, are housed in premises that are the obverse of their purposes.

The Treasury, which is supposed to look after money, has the most wasteful space; the Department of the Environment has the most hideous building; Health used to have the office with Legionnaires' Disease — and Social Security — waves at palatial grandeur — "has the most luxurious."

This demure boy — how can he be 50? — is shouldering a Sisyphean boulder: social and moral renewal. The "least recognised" Cabinet minister was this week exposed to the testy challenges of Paxman and Snow. He appeared hesitant, edgily defensive, and was never quite able to get across what is his perfectly proper attempt to reassess radically the welfare state: a Keith Joseph-like critique of how the unrestricted assumption of benefits underpins the cycle of deprivation. Instead, it looked like a heartless stab at a vulnerable group, the single mother. The *Daily Mirror* even launched a ludicrous "Fight for Single Mums" campaign, exploiting that most emotive of images, mother-and-babe, as Christmas looms.

So Lilley was lucky to have the moral support of one plainspoken Tyneside academic, Norman Dennis, of Newcastle University. For 30 years, says Dennis, public opinion has been "corrupted by the dominant liberal intelligentsia", which claims the family is not deteriorating but only changing, and ignores the disastrous social consequences of fatherless families. Dennis feels it is pointless to try to change policy "when public opinion is so disorganised, and so wrong". But Lilley is trying to dismantle this deadly combination of welfare availability with accepted social trends.

Like most women who ignored the social trend and got married before having children, I view the unmarried pregnant teenager with amazement. How can they embark on something as irreversible as motherhood without visible means of support?

We have heard from many single mothers this week. They remind

me of a girl I once talked to at a DHSS office in north London. Her name really was Tracy. She was blonde, pretty, and breathtakingly dim. Her baby was due in a month; its father had already scurried "and good riddance". She sat on the floor, waiting to collect her rent money, her milk tokens and "money for a cot".

Why not borrow a cot? They are soon outgrown: I borrowed one, four times over. Tracy was adamant: "Where am I supposed to put this baby — in my own bed? And then if I lie on it and suffocate it I'm



THE VALERIE GROVE INTERVIEW

a murderer," she said dramatically. One could weep for Tracy and her lifetime of dependent poverty ahead. Or one could question, as Lilley now does, the assumptions of her background — her mother had brought up three children with no father, "and she managed all right" — that lead her into this trap.

On Tuesday *The World at One* found another Tracy, in Wales. She got £59.92 per week, "and a loan from the Social for a bed for Ciaran". She was asked for her views. "If we had more money there wouldn't be so much crime and that." Her mother was succinct: "Girls get pregnant but boys don't want to be stuck with a woman and a baby." Could she have her daughter and grandchild live with her? Not with her husband being "on invalidity".

Such soundbites provoke not sympathy but exasperation. Yet no hard questions are addressed to Tracys, about who will house, feed and clothe their children. Tracys' views, and stupidity, are made acceptable by social convention. Any pregnant woman, married or not, gets every modern aid to a healthy birth. Anyone trying to adopt a child is rigorously scrutinised. But nobody questions the pregnant girl's long-term economic future. Career women discuss glass ceilings, when so many (life expectancy 79 years) fence themselves into parasitical state dependency in their teens. And we all meekly accept collective responsibility: babies must not starve.

"It's certainly very odd," says Mr Lilley, treading on eggshells, "especially to people from very settled, fortunate backgrounds like mine, that anyone can bring a child into the world without being reasonably sure that the other parent will stay around. We know you can never depend on that for ever. But sometimes there doesn't even seem to be any attempt at commitment."

It is a tough question: how far can the social security system be prescriptive about behaviour? Beveridge could take for granted the security of family life, and the dependency of wives on home-providing husbands. But that was half a century ago.

When family allowances arrived in the mid-1940s, Peter Lilley's mother will have received 5s (25p) for him, her second child, Eleanor Rathbone, the MP who drew up the scheme, excluded both the first child and the unmarried; so far have times changed. The Lilleys were a family otherwise untouched by welfare, though Lilley recalls how his father dealt with a tax problem when his sister went to university and Lilley senior's tax allowance failed to arrive. He wrote to the tax office in verse, beginning, "Esteemed and most respected sir/ Although it is human to be err/..."

Which surprised them into action. Unlike his Cambridge mafia peers, Lilley was "too shy" to speak at the Union. He read natural sciences ("I think I'm the only scientist in Cabinet, now Mrs Thatcher is no longer with us") and economics. Lilley may wish they would not keep showing the "I've got a little list" clip from his rabble-rousing 1992 Tory conference speech, but it did give him some gladiatorial oomph. He tends to be socially outshone by his lively wife, Gail, an artist, whom he met when she was a Tory councillor in Highgate. Her next exhibition opens at Roy Miles gallery in December (exquisite oils and pastels for the elegant Tory Christmas stocking). They have houses in Islington, the constituency St Albans and Normandy; they have no children themselves.

He sighs at "the diversity of human situations" with which his department must deal. He knows how furious it makes the divorced, widowed and deserted, struggling alone, when headlines say "Ministers attack lone parents". He is committed to supporting, not attacking, lone parents, he wearily repeats. "I think it's a shame," he says, "that the focus turns on the women who bear the brunt of the problem, who may not be adequate, but at least they are there, looking after the child."

What we have seen is a change in attitude to marriage, responsibility, and to benefits themselves. Welfare benefit used to be considered the last resort. It was a matter of pride, even to people on very meagre incomes, to keep themselves, without relying on others. That has been eroded. People began to sneer at those who did not claim all they could.



The scrounger's enemy: Peter Lilley, determined to dismantle the deadly combination of welfare availability with accepted social trends

This week we saw Lady Thatcher's dramatic version of Peter Lilley's part in her downfall which "turned a knife in my heart. Peter was my friend. He was a believer!" He was hurt by her misinterpretation. If he has a knife, it will carve out of the welfare system not just a set of services but a set of ideas about society.

His inroad into *de facto* housing priority for the unmarried is a message of disapproval — for a social development nobody can possibly defend. Much sport was made of his claim that some "get pregnant to get a house" (of course nobody would admit to that) and his more valid point was lost: that the ready availability of housing is probably the nearest thing to a financial incentive for an altered social attitude.

At least, he says, it is a relief to be allowed to discuss it. "For 20 years it was taboo to question them, and even today, one is ridiculed and sneered at by the politically correct. Only open discussion can possibly lead to a change in attitudes. But since the attitudes took 20 or 30 years to become entrenched in one direction," he added softly, "it's not going to happen overnight in another direction."

Quite: it will take generations to judge the effects of his measures, whatever they may be. The pendulum has already swung too far one way to rescue a million benefit-dependent mothers. He thinks "getting maintenance from the fathers" is a step, futile though it may seem if the penniless young father is on benefit himself. Juggling allowances to get women back to work is another.

But what of the children? Why not emulate the French, whose universal provision of nursery schools not only frees young women to work and support themselves, but gets their unruly children into a disciplined environment? The sons (let's be frank, it's the sons) of the dependency-culture most need civilising; and the daughters too have to be directed away from following in their mothers' footsteps. Mr Lilley had been talking to Madame Weil, his French opposite number, about nurseries just last week.

But nurseries are not Tory orthodoxy. Not even worth a try? "A pretty expensive try," he said. Less expensive, I think, than dealing with an already entrenched underclass. But we were cut short. A head appeared. "The car is waiting, Mr Lilley." The real dependency culture, he jests, was the co-opting of government ministers.

BOOTS CATERPULLA TOY PRODUCT RECALL

Boots has identified a possible problem with a small fabric bobble on the Caterpulla toy, which could become detached during play.

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Rebel without a hope

Almost unnoticed, something happened this week while we in the media roared enjoyable abuse at one another and the politicians leashed and blundered. Beside the bleak A47 in Cambridgeshire, a citizen emerged, death-pale and blinking, from a steel box in which he had imprisoned himself half a year ago. "Six months of hell," he said simply. "I missed my 48th birthday, my daughter's 21st, and my father's funeral."

The box, a portable cabin, was once a roadside café. It stood in a layby for 25 years until the Department of Transport declared the site dangerous and closed it. Mr Hawes, in the presence of his MP Henry Bullingham, was promised another pitch three miles away; but after a shooting incident and threats from a nearby householder with a twelve-bore, the offer was withdrawn.

Mr Hawes promptly welded himself in. Summer sun beat down on the cabin, autumn rains drummed on its roof; he ate up the café stores and then received food, and medicine for his arthritis, from his wife and children through a tiny hole.

"I watched television," he told me yesterday. "They never cut the electricity off. I talked to people through a sort of baby-alarm intercom. Otherwise nobody cared. I don't know what it takes to move the Department of Transport. I really don't. But they promised me, didn't they? That's all I was saying. They promised, in front of my MP, and I voted for an MP not a load of civil servants. What am I supposed to do?"

What, indeed? The locals may have hollered the odd message of solidarity through the hole, but otherwise Mr Hawes's protest, so enormous

What do people have to do to get themselves noticed today?

to him, was met by society with a polite shrug. Nanny state or not, no anxious authority had even sent firemen or therapists to get him out of his own good. The Department of Transport appeared untroubled. So he came out. Curiously, in the same week not fifty miles away, a middle-aged lady golfer and choral



LIBBY PURVES

society stalwart "psyched herself up" by listening to Bizet's *Te Deum*, stripped to the waist at a local game shoot and slashed herself 30 times with a kitchen knife, smearing blood all over the beaters' vehicles and announcing that if it saved the life of one partridge it would be worth it. She got her picture in the local paper, but beyond that her effect was nil. Even the ambulance crew sent her home to her GP. As an exercise in bathos, you could hardly better it; except, perhaps, by spending six months in the dark being ignored.

The question is, really, what on earth does a peaceable citizen have to do these days to get noticed? There was a time when white poppies, black armbands, shaven heads, or

wearing a green willow all around your hat would attract attention. If not sympathy. When the Edwardian writer Saki published *The Great Weep* in which women protesters win their case by embarrassing public crying, it was quite credible that such tactics would work. The Aldermaston marches have passed into legend: today, they would probably make item nine on the TV news.

Perhaps extravagant gestures are just so common now that it is impossible to stand out. If 500 people lie down dressed as corpses outside Parliament, we say: "Oh, a stunt." If Mr Scargill sits in a condemned pit for three days, we are bored after two. Shaven chanting oriental monks, sleepers in doorways, and sandwich-boards announcing that protein causes lust are part of the street furniture and we hardly register them. Young Iranian human rights protesters at one point sat in the street for three weeks, finally giving up because nobody even broke step. There are just too many arms waving at the bar of life, trying in vain to attract the barman.

All that is left is total self-immolation in the manner of Emily Davison, Jan Palach or Bobby Sands: and even that does not work. Or else — here is the worrying bit — criminal damage. The poll-tax riots were deplorable, but where is the poll tax now?

The man in Cambridgeshire with the twelve-bore gun lost his licence, but has been spared having a transport café near his house; while peaceable, pale Mr Hawes does not have a transport café at all. Suddenly, I feel very nostalgic for Aldermaston. Though, come to think of it, that didn't work either.

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Philip Howard



How to live with pain is a lesson the philosophers can teach politicians

Politicians need to be stoical, to suffer the sneers and yahoos of outrageous criticism. But should they be stoics? The only living politician on record as a practising stoic is about to arrive in England to preach his self-imposed philosophy. Our thin-skinned prima donnas of politics would improve themselves by going down on Monday evening to King's College in the Strand to hear Admiral James Bond Stockdale. He is the American war-hero who last year by accident became Ross Perot's running-mate, and so candidate for the vice-presidency of the United States. As a naval pilot, he was shot down over Vietnam in 1965. As the Vietnamese fired up at his descending parachute, Stockdale consoled himself with the thought that he was leaving this world of pain for Epictetus' world of peace. When he landed, he was immediately beaten up and had his leg broken. He spent the next seven years in Hanoi's infamous Hoa Lo, or "Fiery Furnace" prison camp, four of them in solitary confinement, and two in leg irons.

He claims that he survived, and helped his fellow captives to endure, and made his attempt at suicide, by following the teachings of Epictetus, the slave who became a Stoic philosopher about a century after Christ. Epictetus taught a robust faith in will-power to overcome the external pains and sorrows of life. "On earth we are all prisoners in an earthly body. I must die. But must I die groaning? I must be imprisoned. But must I whine as well? My leg you will chain — yes, but my will — no, not even Zeus can conquer that." Epictetus himself was lame from early youth. The pain and inconvenience of a gammy leg may encourage a philosophical attitude to life. Shout for us, Zeus, the original Thunderer, as we cripples, tripping over our crutches, are tempted by more emotional shrieks at life's Stoicism.

A life not put to rest is a life not worth living, according to the bracing sound-bite of Epictetus. And British boarding-school culture of cold baths, caning, Christianity and cricket was a descendant of Stoicism. There was considerable virtue in it, and the recent tendency towards emotionalism and letting it all hang out could do with stiffening by the stoic recognition that we were not sent into this world entirely for pleasure. A person, and even a politician, needs to recognise that this earthly world is always going to be worthy of much improvement.

Admiral Stockdale is only a part-time politician, on a rickety and unsavoury political platform. His leader, Ross Perot, wounded by being described as a demagogue by professional politicians, looked the word up in his dictionary, and entirely approved of its application to him. A democratic politician needs to listen to the voices of as many diverse people as he can manage. But the difference between a politician and a demagogue is that the former has a notion (however batty) of leading the people in some direction or other, while the latter rides on the backs of the people's prejudices and passions without caring where they take him. Ross Perot could use some of the detachment of his running mate.

Admiral Stockdale was an ineffectual politician during the presidential election, famously asking "Why am I here?" during the vice-presidential television debate, and confessing that he had missed a question because he had not turned up his hearing aid. But, like his hero, the admiral is an example to us all, by turning his eyes outwards from his daily excitements to the larger world of the mind.

In these days of grimly professional politics, no prime minister is ever again going to have the time to write academic books on Homer, as Gladstone did, or Byronic romances, as Disraeli did. These days they have no time to read anything more demanding than Trollope or even (stretching it a lot) Jeffrey Archer.

The daff flying admiral could teach us something useful about stoic and stoical indifference. The first adjective preserves the memory of the antique stoics, the second keeps them in the background. Unlike Epicureanism and Platonic love, Stoicism is a philosophy that has preserved its original meaning. The emotional world of Ross Perot and psychobabble and instant gratification could use more of it.



At the feet of the leader

Oppressed peoples who must pretend to worship their tyrants are one thing, but how can we explain cults among the free?

Ozymandias, thou shouldst be living at this hour. But he is, he is! Listen to this from the Associated Press: "A bronze statue of Mao Tse-tung, five times life size, will be unveiled on December 26 in his home province, Hunan, to mark the 100th anniversary of his birth."

As I recall, Mao, though a trifle corpulent, was somewhat below average Western height; shall we say 5ft 6ins? Multiply that by five, knock off a bit for the plinth, and there is old Ozy Mao nine yards up in the sky, the man who killed more human beings than any other murderer in all history — more than Pol Pot, more than Hitler, more than Stalin. With that record, why stop at a mere five times life-size? Why not ten times? A hundred? A thousand? Why not build a statue that will reach the moon, the sun, the farthest stars, even God Almighty? (Particularly the last, because Mao will have a nasty shock when he discovers that He exists, after all those years in which he denied it.)

On the other hand, perhaps no man who ever lived was, in his own lifetime, treated by more people as a god. Reading again, George Urban's compilation *The Miracles of Chairman Mao* is a weird experience. When it was first published, 22 years ago, it had three wildly different receptions: one was, of course, laughter at the lunacy; the second was a shudder that such madness could exist; the third was the one which today is dismissed as impossible: it comprised those who genuinely believed in it — indeed I recall vividly a march of Maoist daffies, with a massive banner above them, reading "Put Mao Tse-tung thought in charge of everything". (Though for all I know, Professor Terence "Call me Terry" Eagleton, our most fashionable Oxford Marxist, may think that that would be a great stride into the perfect world.) Anyway, have a taste.

Here is Comrade Chin Hsun-bua, who unfortunately fell into the Shuang River and was drowned; he met his tragic and watery end by trying to save state materials, and was rewarded by being posthumously made a member of the Chinese Communist party. Dead men are expected to leave no tales, but this one left plenty; he had kept a diary.

"Yesterday was the third anniversary of our great leader Chairman Mao's swim in the Yangtze River. Our great leader Chairman Mao is in such excellent health; this is the greatest happiness for the revolutionary people in China and

the whole world... Under the leadership of our great leader Chairman Mao, and under the guidance of Mao Tse-tung thought, let us advance courageously in the new high tide of the world revolution and in the storms and waves of the class struggle...

"In the afternoon, I had a pain in my stomach... I remembered that now production work is very pressing. Then, when I was working, I found my stomach pain was not so serious after all..."

"This afternoon, I went for a swim in the river. As I stood on the bank I saw that the current was very swift. Shall I swim? The current is really frightening. I thought to myself. At this juncture, I remembered Chairman Mao's teaching: 'Even big storms and waves are not formidable. It is precisely amid storms and waves that human society develops.' Knowing that a man can cultivate bravery and toughness in the swift current, I jumped into the river and swam a score of metres..."

"Recently I was asked to participate in the performance of literary and art programmes. This really put me in a dilemma. It is my bounden duty to disseminate Mao Tse-tung thought, but I do not know anything about acting. What if there are flaws in my performance? I then studied Chairman Mao's works. By studying, my mind became clear. With a clear mind, I learned relatively well, and in a short time I mastered some of the fundamentals of acting..."

Don't put your cadres on the stage. Mao Worshtung, don't put your cadres on the stage. But it is not only comical, poor Chin Hsun-bua's fate; it is the fate of countless millions.

My jesting about one of the world's greatest wickednesses may be thought in poor taste. But it is not possible to exclude laughter from such crawling creatures as Chin, water grave or no water grave, so remote are they from anything that can be called

human; Chin and his fellows, the proud victims, parrot their slogans and mumble their dreadful verses and responses.

The population of China in those days was getting on for one billion. (It is well past that marker now.) It is inconceivable that all of them took seriously the Mao Tse-tung rubbish, let alone the rubbish that the rubbish inspired. I rather think that the number who laughed was truly substantial; the Chinese have a reputation, I think well earned, for being inscrutable, and perhaps behind their inscrutability they were bursting with laughter. And we must welcome into the ranks of sanity those millions who did not laugh (and had nothing to laugh about, not even Chin and his parrots), but certainly believed not a word of it.

Yet among those millions there were, there must have been, vast numbers who swallowed it whole, and had no propensity to vomit as they did so. And remember that even these were human beings.

What are the most terrible words in Nineteen Eighty-Four? Those which threaten Winston Smith having his face torn off by the hungry rats? Those that are paring him from his love? Those in which O'Brien first makes clear that he is not in the same boat as Winston thought him, but is the enemy? No: the answer is (they are the last words of the book): "He loved Big Brother."

The argument goes on, and will never be settled: is there a thing called mass brainwashing, or is it a phrase that should never have escaped from fiction? If the latter, how do you account for Chin and his likes? If the former, how does it work and can anybody do it?

This is not the same question as the one about the statue of Mao. After all, when the Soviet Union collapsed, there was a roar and a rumble as many a hundred statues were pulled down, the

demolition parties signifying that they had only put them up and kept them there by force majeure, and nobody could quarrel with that. The poor devils of Human will have to put up with the nine-yard Mao towering over them and blotting out the light for half the day, but nobody could criticise them for not pulling it down as soon as it was put up. (And in any case, however long we have to wait, that statue too will be torn down, along with the evil state that put it up.)

These are logical positions. Chin's wasn't. Try this one:

"A man of medium build who had been paralysed for four years, Lia Chao-yu, was overwhelmed with excitement when he got on the stage. Waving *Quotations from Chairman Mao Tse-tung*, he jumped with joy and cheered 'Long live Chairman Mao' for at least a minute. He told the audience: 'I owe my second life to Chairman Mao. No language in the world can express fully my gratitude to our dear and respected Chairman Mao'. He then did a dance in praise of the great leader Chairman Mao."

Someone, in the Great Leader's lifetime, calculated that there were approximately five billion pictures of him in China. What did he feel when he was told? You can say that by then he was very mad indeed, and thought it nothing but his due. But before that, when he was only a murderous tyrant, and had ideas (wrong but possibly useful), did he believe what his court told him — that he could do anything, that he was the greatest genius who ever lived, that he could not make a mistake, that no one was allowed to disagree — did he think he could make China an entirely different place, and its people entirely different human beings?

And whatever the answer, how can we explain the rush of people in free countries yearning to throw themselves beneath the wheels of the juggernaut? I wonder if the group with the banner saying "Put Mao Tse-tung thought in charge of everything" are still of that mind?

Perhaps we should leave that question, and all the other questions, to poor Chin.

"We talked of the problem of lamps and have come to a conclusion: no matter how bright the lamp is, when one's ideology is dark, one still feels the lamp is dark. No matter how small the wick is, whenever I study Chairman Mao's works, my heart feels bright all over."

Bernard Levin

That Dizzy feeling

NORMAN LAMONT was back on familiar territory last week at the Treasury for a reunion with the mandarins who advised him when he was Chancellor of the Exchequer. The civil servants, led by Sir Terence Burns, permanent secretary at the Treasury, threw a party for their old boss.

Much of the discussion concerned affairs of state, but some inevitably touched upon the thorny annual issue of the Treasury Christmas card. Indeed the matter was so close to the former chancellor's heart when in office that he was presented at last week's party with the picture he wanted for a card when he was in power. It was a reproduction of a Disraeli portrait hanging in the National Portrait Gallery, in which Disraeli is smoking opium.

Needless to say, Burns decided that opium-smoking was not quite the image for the Treasury and on his advice Lamont settled for a rather more mundane rendition of the Victorian statesman.

"From the moment I became chancellor I wanted to have Disraeli," he says. "I wanted the one of him smoking an opium pipe and wearing pantaloons. But I was persuaded in favour of the one by J.E. Millais."

Kenneth Clarke, the new incumbent, has abandoned Disraeli for a lesser known politician, Austen Chamberlain, whose half-brother Neville, of course, became prime minister. Austen Chamberlain made his mark as foreign secretary, but one should bear in mind that he also served two terms as chancellor. Clarke surely wouldn't want to give Lamont ideas about a comeback.

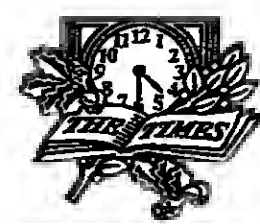
No steam ahead?

THE IMPLICATIONS of the government's pit closure programme are far-reaching indeed. Even Britain's last operational coal-fired paddle steamer may be under threat. The problem is that only the finest quality coal will do for the Kingswear Castle, which

offers charter trips from the historic naval dockyards at Chatham in Kent. British Coal is already struggling to produce coal of good enough quality for the steamer, built in 1924, and its trustees claim that more pit closures can only result in a further deterioration of quality.

"The closure of mines is not very helpful, because we find it difficult enough to get the right kind of coal as it is," says John Megoran, one of the trustees. British Coal says it will do all it can to prevent such a tragedy. "Even if it means we have to import coal of the necessary quality where necessary."

Exporting coal to Chatham and Newcastle



DIARY

John Tust is not turning his back on higher education altogether. Last night, a month after he left the presidency of Wolfson College of Cambridge in high dudgeon, he received an honorary degree as Doctor of Laws from London University.

Put the hat away

SENIOR MPs are so upset at the public ridicule they received for wearing odd headgear in the Commons chamber that they are calling for the "top hat" rule to be revised. MPs don some sort of headgear, whether it is the hat kept behind the Speaker's chair, a police helmet or even a knotted handkerchief, to catch the Speaker's eye to raise a point of order during a division.

The farce reached dramatic proportions last week when

constituents saw their elected representatives on television with a collapsible opera hat on their heads during the debate of the rail Bill. The sensitivity among MPs is such that the matter is likely to be taken up by the Commons procedure committee.

"Whatever the practicalities, it does look incredibly stupid. My view is that if we could find a better way to draw attention during a division, we should certainly do it," says committee member, Charles Hendry, MP for High Peak.

Hang in there

HARD on the heels of Peter Deighan's portrait of John Major comes news at last that the Carlton Club, bastion of the Tory establishment, is to hang its own version of the prime minister.

Until recently, Margaret Thatcher glared down from the prized slot reserved for pictures of the prime minister overlooking the club's staircase. She has now been relegated to the drawing room. Mr Major will finally unveil the portrait by Dicon Swan next Wednesday night, on the eve of the new parliamentary session.

Swan eventually arranged a sitting for the end of June. "I was asked to do it about two months after he became prime minister. It just took an awfully long time to get him to agree to a date." He painted Major in a pinstripe suit at the cabinet table. In front of him is the cigar box inscribed W.R. given by King William IV to Wellington. As a non-smoker, Major uses it to store his pens.

The Archbishop of York, Dr John Habgood, is disturbed that the press has dubbed his band of provincial episcopal vicars "the flying bishops". So he admitted at the general synod this week that he was searching for a more respectful but catchy term. The acronym PEVs has been ruled out, however, because it sounds like a form of plastic.



Not a carry on

Yesterday was a sad day for Carry On fans. Not only did it see a plethora of obituaries of the film's director Gerald Thomas, it also served as a painful reminder that what could have been the funniest film of all, *Carry On Texas*, was never made.

In the early 1980s, the scriptwriter Ken Hoare was asked by Thomas to create a Carry On-style spoof of the soap opera *Dallas*. "They had been affected by the *Airplane* movies and they wanted to do a Carry On film that was a little more zany than the others," he says. "I delivered the first draft — a spoof of *Dallas* with sewage instead of oil — and they blew hot and cold. It was a relief, as it was slipping back into Carry On-isms."

Barbara Windsor regrets it was never made. "The opening shot was of Jack Ewing's funeral. That was Sid James, who had died shortly before. It was real sleaze. I was to be the poison dwarf, Charles Tilton. Kenneth Williams was J.R., or rather, R.U. Ramming. It was scrapped when *Dallas* threatened to sue. But it was only a Carry On film."

مكتبة من الأصل



POWER PARTNERS

What Lord Walker can learn from Liverpool

So many experimental policies have been launched in the past 14 years to revive the inner cities that the government's new urban regeneration agency, English Partnerships, set up under the chairmanship of the former cabinet minister, Peter Walker, was bound to be greeted with scepticism. Though correct in the analysis that local redevelopment could never be achieved by town halls acting alone, the Tories have long failed to produce a coherent alternative strategy.

The government has been accused of not caring about the inner cities. But, if anything, its urban policy has been too urban. Redevelopment policies, from the urban development corporations (UDCs) created in 1981, to the ill-thought City Technology College project, to the two-year-old City Challenge schemes, have focused on the blighted inner cities rather than their role in the surrounding areas. The 13 UDCs have reclaimed 3,500 acres a year, with often striking results such as the Albert Dock development in Liverpool. But transforming dereliction is not enough.

Lord Walker's new agency seems to have acknowledged that cities must be seen as the hubs of regional economies rather than canvases for cheery beautification. By stripping the word "urban" out of its official title, it has signalled that its work will not be confined by city walls but will focus on the attraction of inward investment to whole areas in economic trouble.

The encouragement of long-term strategic projects should be made easier by the structural reforms announced last week by John Gummer, the environment secretary. To minimise the complexity of local bids for support and cut through red tape, six government departments will pool their aid programmes in a single regeneration budget administered by regional offices. Local partnerships seeking public funding will be able to apply to a single point for integrated assistance from different departments.

This is one of the most sensible local

government reforms of recent years. But change at the centre must be matched by foresight and enterprise in the regions. Without vigorous co-operation between public and private sector in deprived areas, aid from Whitehall will amount to little more than a short-term national dole. Local authorities have never been able to manage these funds effectively on their own; but centrally-imposed quangos such as the urban development corporations cannot offer long-term solutions.

There are signs that some regions are moving beyond this old polarity between town hall and quango to develop their own alliances and collaborative ventures. Symbolic of the new approach is the Mersey Partnership, launched in London last month, which will co-ordinate marketing strategy for Liverpool and its surrounding region. As we reported on Tuesday, Liverpool is being transformed by new policies of cooperation between governing authorities and the academic, business and church communities. Peterborough's new £500 million southern township development is being backed by Hanson plc. In the capital, the Corporation of London (the local authority for the City) is collaborating energetically with the London Docklands Development Corporation.

Accountable politicians must naturally be at the heart of all such ventures, as they are in the Mersey Partnership and will be, Lord Walker has promised, in the activities of his new agency. It is heartening that in many areas, public and private sector are now collaborating unbidden by Whitehall, and are treating public funds as investment rather than subsidy.

Old tensions between business and local government are slowly relaxing. The word "partnership" has been used so indiscriminately in political discourse that it has become almost meaningless. But in the context of local governance, it deserves to be reclaimed.

PLAYING FOR TIME

The Arts Council axe is falling on orchestras too fast

Does London have too many symphony orchestras? That is the view of the Arts Council. Twenty years after the Peacock Report made the suggestion, it has finally decided to reduce to two the number of London orchestras receiving public subsidy. One will be the London Symphony Orchestra which has an excellent and artistically successful relationship with the Barbican and the City of London (which also funds it). The problem is choosing the other one, which will play in the Festival Hall. This week an Arts Council committee, chaired by the high court judge Sir Leonard Hoffmann, is examining evidence supplied by the three competing orchestras and the South Bank Centre, which runs the Festival Hall. Even before the committee pronounces, the process has produced bitter divisions in the musical world.

Some oppose the entire idea: the more orchestras the better, they argue, for a city which considers itself the capital of the musical world. Why jeopardise the sheer variety of choice for London's concertgoers because a few bureaucrats have itchy fingers? Others, however, point to falling attendances, greying audiences, a certain sameness of repertoire, and a feeling that, although London's orchestras are fine, they do not match the "world-class" ensembles of Vienna, Berlin or Chicago.

By combining three orchestras' subsidies into one, the Arts Council hopes to enable the winner to lift its standards to this exalted level. As for the losers, they will survive on sponsorship, recordings and box-office takings — or die.

Will the Arts Council's route produce the desired excellence? Not necessarily. Even if

the winner did receive enhanced subsidy, it would still be getting no more than a quarter of what the Berlin Philharmonic receives from public funds, a quarter of what a world-class orchestra costs. There is confusion, too, about how the Arts Council's vision of a super-orchestra tallies with the South Bank's plans for attracting younger audiences with bright, radical music-making. The Vienna Philharmonic is not noted for its educational work or its iconoclastic sense of adventure.

These two artistic goals — adventure or perfection — are not necessarily mutually exclusive. But there is a further source of bitterness: two of the orchestras, the Philharmonia and Royal Philharmonic, believe that they are not competing on a level playing-field with the third, the London Philharmonic, which has the clear backing of the South Bank and a contract to be its resident orchestra until 1997.

Under these circumstances, any choice made by the Hoffmann committee will cause a discord of Stockhausen proportions. Sir Peter Maxwell Davies, who is affiliated to the RPO camp, has already announced that he will hand back his knighthood if his orchestra goes under. The other orchestras can summon equally eminent knights, earls, even princes, to their aid.

That, of course, is no argument for maintaining the status quo for ever. London's orchestras must be forced to ponder why their box-office takings have not benefited from the recent huge surge in classical music appreciation. But this decision is too important to British musical life to be rushed through before Christmas in a *prestissimo agitato*.

CASTLES IN COLD AIR

Euro Disney needs several transformation scenes

The kingdom has lost its magic. The loss last year by Euro Disney of £614 million is twice as large as analysts expected and represents a financial drain that even its extraordinarily successful American parent company will be hard pressed to staunch. There is now a real prospect that this most visible overseas totem of American culture may disappear. Happy, Grumpy and their goodly company of mice, dwarves and fairies to the unemployment bureaux of Paris.

Such an outcome would be a spectacular financial blow for investors in both America and France. It would also inevitably inspire fresh transatlantic polemics on the mutual incomprehension of the old world and the new. In the current political climate, it would reinforce resistance in France not only to the reinforcement of American film and television but to the alleged Americanisation of daily life. European intellectuals would prate about the superiority of native European culture, the inspiration, in myths and fantasies — there are the Disney magic — while fact, for most of the Disney magic would exasperated American investors would warn their countrymen to avoid risks with the hoity-toity Europeans.

Any mirror on the wall, however, could have foreseen Snow White's troubles at a location on a planning map, but whereas Americans think nothing of a weekend flight or a 15-hour drive to Orlando, the people of Dresden, Oslo and Athens see Euro Disney

as several countries and a very expensive plane journey away.

The Disney executives should have first tried standing in an empty parking lot on a November afternoon or queuing for an hour and a half with three children to spend fifty seconds on Indiana Jones or the Temple du Péril. Those who rejected Spain because of its peripheral position forgot its weather.

Even a clichéd understanding of French likes and habits should have made it obvious that a day out with no alcohol and no proper restaurants is hardly a Frenchman's idea of fun. American planners — and their French partners — should also have looked at the relative attractions of Orlando and Paris. Whereas Disney World ranks as one of the most vibrant attractions in Florida, tourists are not drawn to Paris by the magnetism of Euro Disney: there is much else to do.

The magic kingdom has not been well managed. As well as the rain and the surly staff, there are the prices. The franc is strong, and Euro Disney is too expensive for many. It is cheaper to fly to Florida. No one wants to pay £60 for a Mickey Mouse doll. Few wanted the package rate at the hotels even after recent price cuts. The park borrowed too much money and banked on recouping too much of it from ancillary services. In order to survive, the magic kingdom may have to become a French national treasure. Pass the magic wand.

Press freedom and privacy protection

From Mr James G. Bradshaw

Sir, It is surprising that Mr Oscar Beuselinck (letter, November 10) should put the argument, however rhetorically, that Sir David Calcutt and everyone else concerned with intrusion by the press could have been wasting their time in the consideration of this subject.

On the decided cases the law is in an unsatisfactory state and this is not acceptable upon an issue of such high importance as the right freely to print, write or speak.

After believing totally in such a right for all my adult life, the events of recent years have brought me to the conviction that some restraint on the invasion of privacy is now necessary and inevitable.

It is hard to believe that in the face of so many appalling abuses any unprejudiced person could accept that self-regulation can be any more considered a tenable answer.

The irresponsible section of the press has shown beyond doubt that it will ever resist the temptation to infringe personal privacy by payment of large sums of money for information obtained by means which, if not already illegal, should now speedily be made so.

Nor will it be a sufficient remedy to rely upon civil law. If a publisher is prepared to pay for information in hundreds of thousands, civil damages limited, say, to £10,000 are unlikely to be a deterrent.

The convincing reports of Sir David Calcutt provide for effective sanctions which the government, decisive for its decision as it so often appears, should now face up to and carry into law. No self-respecting newspaper need fear such a step if the legislation provides, as it should, a defence of legitimate public interest.

Yours faithfully,
JAMES G. BRADSHAW
(Retired solicitor),
The Manor House, Welburn, York.
November 10.

From Mr Philip I. Conway

Sir, Despite the view of Lord Lester of Herne Hill (letter, November 9), there is no common law right to privacy in this country. The reference to privacy by Lord Keith in the *Spycatcher* case was concerned only with situations where the invasion of privacy amounted to a breach of confidence. As Gordon Kaye's solicitor I can say that Lord Lester is also incorrect in stating that the Court of Appeal banned the publication of the photographs of the actor taken in 1990 without consent as he lay incapacitated in his hospital room.

I know of no case where it has been successfully argued that there is a general right to privacy. Indeed, when the Duchess of York's friend John Bryan applied to restrain the publication of certain holiday photographs, he was unsuccessful because the court ruled that there was no right to privacy. My firm successfully represented the *Daily Mirror* on that occasion.

I am sure that, had the Princess of Wales applied for an injunction on the basis that her right to personal privacy had been wrongfully infringed, her application would have met the same fate.

Yours faithfully,
PHILIP CONWAY,
Wright Webb Syrett (solicitors),
10 Soho Square, W1.
November 10.

From Professor Eric Moonman

Sir, Lord McGregory's remarks urging advertisers to withdraw their business from a newspaper, subsequently retracted (report, November 11), create a dangerous precedent which troubles me rather more than the foolish actions of the *Mirror* group in purchasing and publishing the rather boring pictures of the Princess of Wales.

Yours faithfully,
ERIC MOONMAN
(Chairman),
Essex Radio plc,
Radio House, Clifton Road,
Southend-on-Sea, Essex.

From Mr G. H. Wallace

Sir, *Mirror* Group Newspapers and many others in our free-wheeling society should remember that freedom has two aspects, and that freedom from is at least as important as freedom to.

Yours faithfully,
GEORGE WALLACE,
10 Bucklands Lane, Nailsea, Bristol.

From Mr D. A. Chance

Sir, Pest control is essential for rats. Statutory control seems to be just as essential for rabbits.

Yours truly,
D. A. CHANCE,
Broome House Farm,
Bungay, Suffolk.

Coach seatbelts

From Mrs Janet Whitby

Sir, It may be impossible for the government to enforce a unilateral seatbelt law (report, November 11). This does not prevent coach companies from offering passengers the option of wearing a seatbelt.

Yours faithfully,
JANET WHITEBY,
35 Cassland Road, E9.
November 11.

The future and fate of the Marsden

From Professor Robert Souhami

Sir, The threat to the Royal Marsden Hospital (report, November 8) is a striking example of the damage now being inflicted on specialist medicine in London. The wrecking forces are familiar. They are unplanned, ill-conceived "market forces", and a series of reports by expert committees drawn mainly from outside London, each with a restricted brief, a poor grasp of London medicine and sometimes their own axe to grind.

This attack on London's academic medical institutions is taking place against a dramatic drop in the prestige of UK academic medicine: a 37 per cent reduction in citation of UK clinical papers in oncology since 1986, and a loss of 10 per cent of all university clinical academic staff since 1980.

The Marsden and the Institute of Cancer Research are excellent clinical and academic institutions. Rational, planned redevelopment of cancer medicine and research in west London involving the Marsden and its neighbouring hospitals could bring big benefits.

Random damage by the "internal market", combined with a softening-up process of rumour and speculation about closure, produces the opposite. There is a flight of talent, deep demoralisation and a drift to destruction. All of us in academic medicine in London know the feeling.

It is a contemptible episode in British medical history which is the product of a weak, indecisive, but deeply ideological government.

Yours faithfully,
ROBERT SOUHAMi,
University College London
Medical School,
Department of Oncology,
The Middlesex Hospital,
Mortimer Street, W1.
November 9.

From Professor Peter Garland and others

Sir, Your account of the government's report reviewing research at the Royal Marsden Hospital confirms what is widely known: membership of an "expert advisory group" brings with it neither infallibility nor absolute rectitude.

The group's report, responsibility

Racial harmony

From Mr Keith Poulter

Sir, Bernie Grant, MP, who wants the Crown Jewels and other artifacts returned to Africa as compensation for slavery (report, November 10), may not be joking.

If serious, he seems to be playing his part in the "increase in racism" to which he refers.

It is not necessary for black people to "set a new agenda for the millennium", but it is surely necessary for divisive types such as Mr Grant to stop pulling the nation apart along the lines of race. His comments encourage people to think that black British people have still not made up their minds about where their roots

for which lies with its authors, was commissioned by the Department of Health as part of a review of London special health authorities.

The terms of reference for the research review of the Marsden excluded its associated Institute of Cancer Research. The advisory group nevertheless chose to pass judgment (which was adverse) on several aspects of the institute's research management. In doing so they incurred three basic responsibilities, none of which was met: to get the facts right; to base conclusions on evidence; and promptly to retract damaging conclusions when they are demonstrated to be wrong.

In contrast the Department of Health accepted as true the institute's record of excellence in its research arrangements and thereby disavowed those sections of the report.

The report was equally erroneous in its conclusions on the arrangements at the Marsden, which shares with the institute much of its accommodation, funding and research and many of its appointments and projects.

What matters most in research is performance, not procedure. The advisory group acknowledged the "high quality" of the institute's research, most of which, incidentally, would not even exist but for the Marsden's help and collaboration. It recognised its own relative lack of expertise in cancer research, and drew on the experience of a panel of international referees.

The group's final assessment of performance excluded the institute's hospital-dependent research and disagreed in some areas with the opinions of international referees. Even so, some 80 per cent of the Marsden's research effort was found to lead nationally. The criteria used were evidently high — a Queen's Award-winning team was rated as "weak".

Yours faithfully,
PETER GARLAND
(Chief Executive),
MICHAEL BAUM
(Director of Clinical Research),
ROBIN WEISS
(Director of Research),
The Institute of Cancer Research,
Chester Beatty Laboratories,
Fulham Road, SW3.
November 8.

lie, and this only engenders suspicion and racism.

All British people today, irrespective of race and religion, in effect have their roots in Britain and the agenda for the millennium should seek harmony among all citizens of this country.

Perhaps Mr Grant should consider, firstly, getting on with the job for which we, the British taxpayers, pay him and, secondly, getting on with representing the people, of all races, in his constituency.

Yours faithfully,
KEITH POULTER,
7 Kings Road,
Richmond, Surrey.
November 10.

Charter Mark even though it offers no timed appointments, its record on advice is poor, and its showrooms are ex-directory.

Seven out of the 15 regional electricity companies in the UK now have Charter Marks — yet the October *Which?* report on the industry hardly paints a picture of soaring standards of service and delighted customers.

The awards should reflect the reality of consumers' experience. Currently, they seem to reflect what officials think consumers want.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN BEISHON,
Chief Executive,
Consumers' Association,
2 Marylebone Road, NW1.
November 4.

Civic sculptures

From Councillor Mrs Renée Spector

Sir, In your illustrated article (November 8) by Marcus Binney criticising civic sculptures you struck a somewhat fevered note which does not occur with our experience here in Birmingham.

We have now an extensive record of works of public art in the International Convention Centre, Centenary Square and most recently in Victoria Square.

We have won a number of prestigious national awards for these works. Many are already well loved by Birmingham's citizens.

But it is not just as important to inspire in the positive passer-by the wish to compare, to think and to evaluate for themselves what they feel about these works of art? Is not controversy itself part of the lifeblood of art in a civilised society?

In a recent survey carried out in Victoria Square, 95 per cent of the people of Birmingham were very pleased with the square as a whole and 77 per cent approved of the public art. This in itself endorses the actions we have taken in creating a lively and stimulating environment in our city centre.

Yours faithfully,
RENEE SPECTOR
(Chairperson, Arts, Culture and Economy Sub-Committee,
Birmingham City Council),
139 Grange Road,
Edlington, Birmingham 24.
November 8.

Would new squat laws bring justice?

From Mr Hugo Charlton

Sir, Your leading article on squatting, "Property and theft" (November 5), suggested that to exclude homes and shops from the definition of theft was "an anomaly that defies logic and justice" and seemed to accept uncritically Michael Howard's populist pronouncements on the subject.

It is already a criminal offence to occupy a private home (Criminal Law Act, 1977), and similar rules could easily be applied to shops, but the treatment of unused land or houses is a separate matter, particularly empty council properties.

Your leader writer suggested that squatters jump the housing queues, but this is rarely the case as the properties are usually not up to standard, and if the council has a tenant the Criminal Law Act applies.

In fact there are thousands of empty council houses, but that does not justify your simple conclusion that "squating is only obscuring the serious issue of inefficient housing management... Putting a stop to it... can only benefit the genuine homeless".

The really interesting legal point is that Mr Howard's proposal for an *ex parte* hearing, where the owner can obtain an order in the absence of the occupier, is directly contrary to a well-established principle of natural justice — that a party to a hearing should be able to attend. Mr Howard's remedy that they can attend another after they have been evicted and may have become *de facto* criminals does indeed defy logic and justice.

Yours sincerely,
HUGO CHARLTON,
5 Pump Court, Temple, EC4.
November 9.

From Mr J. W. Williams

Sir, One would have to think hard to imagine a more ludicrous justification for the proposed legislation to evict squatters than that put forward in your leader today. By throwing a few thousand more people onto the streets "the true equation between empty properties and housing need" will become clearer, will it? And then what?

The reason why squatting has become such an established phenomenon is precisely because the housing needs of so many desperate people have been ignored year after year. To justify this criminalisation by presenting squatters as queue-jumpers depriving the patient unhouseless of their council houses is deceitful.

This government has presided over the division of our community into one in which the term "underclass" has come into common usage. It is rather too easy to let that hapless yet convenient group take the strain and the blame; after all, if they don't have any money they can't be worth anything, can they?

Yours sincerely,
J. W. WILLIAMS,
2 Cherwell Cottage,
The Green, Freeland, Oxfordshire.
November 5.

Not to be forgot

From Mrs Daphne Troup

Sir, "Sadly there is nothing we swap so lightly as our own ancient traditions," writes Peter Millar ("Fawkes: no fairy tale", November 5), lamenting the substitution of the "alien pumpkin" for the Celtic turnip lanterns. Has Mr Millar ever tried to make an ancient Celtic turnip lantern? A morning's hacking with a small penknife and a sharp teaspoon produced nothing but a ragged, shallow indentation, rapidly browning.

These days, alas, hordes of heavily disguised, mini-extortionists besedge our doorsteps on bonfire night. Now that is an insidious "New World replacement" for our street-based penny-for-the-guy operators.

Yours faithfully,
DAPHNE TROUP,
47 Napier Road,
Hamworthy, Poole, Dorset.
November 5.

Wrong rectory

From Mr N. J. Moore

Sir, Canon Fuller (letter, November 5) should not assume, because Charles Kingsley was rector of Eversley at the time he wrote *The Water Babies*, that he wrote it at Eversley Rectory.

It has always been understood in my family that he wrote it while staying with his friend Walter Morrison at Malham Tarn House in the West Riding. The pen with which he wrote it has passed down through my family's possession, with a contemporary statement on the matter.

Yours faithfully,
N. J. MOORE,
The Callow, Walford,
Ross on Wye, Herefordshire.

Keeping score

From Dr T. David Binnie

Sir, "The New Zealanders delivered a shattering blow to Scottish rugby yesterday by running up a cricket score..." (Sport, November 11).

Fortunately for the Borderers it was only an English cricket score.

Yours faithfully,
T. D. BINNIE,
54 Craighlea Drive, Edinburgh 14.
November 11.

Table with multiple columns and rows, likely a financial or statistical table. Headers include 'dividend', '18c', '10c', '5c', 'No'. Rows contain numerical data.

NEWS

Channel rail link delayed again

■ Another delay in building the high-speed rail link between the Channel tunnel and London means the first trains are unlikely to run before 2002 — and the latest setback prompted fears last night that the line might never be built at all.

With the tunnel due to open to passengers next year, vital decisions have yet to be made on how the rail line from Folkestone to London will be funded. John MacGregor said yesterday that the final route would be published in January, but he would not say how much money the government was prepared to put into the project. Page 1

Clinton ban angers Adams

■ Gerry Adams, Sinn Féin president, reacted angrily to President Clinton's refusal to grant him an American visa on the ground that he was a leading IRA strategist. Pages 1, 2

The fly's a lie

The discovery that one of the Natural History Museum's prize specimens is a fake means that the history of the fly will have to be rewritten. Page 1

Shop lottery

The £2 billion National Lottery will be played via computers in shops which process tickets in a matter of seconds. Smaller cash sums will be paid out by shop-owners, but the £1 million jackpot will be handed over in televised ceremonies. Pages 1, 27

Rules for editors

Newspaper editors could face dismissal for breaching the industry's code of conduct under rules to be proposed by the Press Complaints Commission. Page 2

Laura dies

Laura Davies lost her fight for life and "joined the angels in heaven" when her parents Fran and Les took the decision to allow her life-saving ventilator to be switched off. Pages 1, 3

Millions at risk

In a devastatingly bleak warning about the effects of war and the onset of winter, America said that the lives of more than four million people were at risk in the former Yugoslavia. Page 17

Pope injured

The Pope, who is 73, suffered a fractured shoulder joint and a dislocated shoulder when he tripped and fell during a Vatican audience, the Holy See said in a statement. Page 16

Dylan's people battle on

■ Forty years after the death of Dylan Thomas, the Welsh seaside village from which he drew inspiration is ready to go it alone in its battle with property developers. People in Oystermouth, just outside the poet's home city of Swansea, have been fighting a £5 million scheme for the past six years. They claim it would ruin their seafaring. Page 12

Church beggars

The Church of England has been living beyond its means for many years. Dr George Carey, Archbishop of Canterbury, told the general synod. Page 12

Missiles shared

Iran and Syria are reported to be co-operating over the development of a cruise missile and some of the technology is coming from Europe and Japan. Page 15

Assertive Kohl

Helmut Kohl, the German chancellor, renewing his pledge of Germany's support for European political union, attacked his critics within the Bonn government's coalition. Page 16

Patten says 'No'

John Patten, the education secretary, refused demands for government regulation of outdoor activity centres in the wake of the Lyme Bay canoeing accident in which four Plymouth sixth-formers died. Page 7

Hope from lasers

A laser gun used to create tiny holes in the heart has begun trials in Britain as a new treatment for coronary disease. If successful, it could change the approach to one of Britain's commonest fatal diseases. Page 9

Rail disruption

A minor train crash outside Leeds station in which five people were slightly injured caused widespread disruption for thousands of passengers across northern England. Page 11



Donald Hodge, 98, from Sussex, a first world war veteran, remembering old comrades in Tyne Cot cemetery, Ypres, yesterday. Page 1

BUSINESS

Electricity: The regional electricity companies have lost more than £172 million in their retail operations since privatisation. The scale of the losses were disclosed after investigations by Ofwat, the industry regulator. Page 25

Lloyd's: Michael Deeny, chairman of the 3,000-member Gooda Walker Action Group, told its annual meeting that he expected the fight for compensation would be through the courts. Page 25

Markets: The FT-SE 100 Index rose 1.2 to close at 3099.7. Sterling's trade-weighted index rose from 80.4 to 80.6 reflecting gains from \$1.4745 to \$1.4790 and DM2.4949 to DM2.4973. Page 28

SPORT

Tennis: Spectator involvement is among the matters to be discussed at an open forum to be staged by the Association of Tennis Professionals before the World Championships in Frankfurt. Page 18

Snooker: One of the most acrimonious rivalries in sport will be renewed when Dennis Taylor and Alex Higgins meet in the first round of the Royal Liver Assurance United Kingdom Championship in Preston. Page 18

Coe's plea: Sebastian Coe urged the government to start direct funding of elite competitors, saying that otherwise Britain would fall further behind other countries in Olympic sports. Page 46

FEATURES

Cooking for Madonna: What is a nice English girl doing in Madonna's kitchen? Rachel Kelly on the rise of the English cook. Page 18

Women in the cults: Julia Lewellyn Smith investigates women cult leaders. Page 18

Today's technology: Four pages of news, information and jobs from the world of information technology, starting on. Page 23

MOTORING

Helicopters at large: Supercars versus workhorses: Kevin Eason road tests a Toyota Supra against an Astra van. Page 41

ARTS

Hadrian's wall: In the new West End musical, *Eurovision*, the gay love of the Emperor Hadrian in ancient Rome is linked, somehow, with the Eurovision Song Contest. "I decided I must be reviewing the after-effects of my flu," says Benedict Nightingale. Page 38

Briers' new sitcom: "The cleverest and most daring thing I have seen in ages," says Lynne Truss, of the new Richard Briers sitcom. *If you see God, tell him*. Page 37

Pop on Friday: David Bowie: *The Singles Collection* charts the career of the slender singer through 37 three-minute wonders; plus Caitlin Moran on the road with Teenage Fanclub. Page 39

PEOPLE IN THE TIMES



Eric Cantona may not receive as severe a punishment as was first feared when Uefa, the European football body, announces its verdict. Page 48



Dawn French teaches the sassy pin-striped John Cleese character a thing or two about figures in a remake of one of Cleese's training films. Page 29



James Brady, who gave his name to the gun-control Brady bill, which passed in the House of Representatives by 49 votes. Page 14

THE TIMES TOMORROW

Warehouse Hamlet

■ Has Alan Cumming got the makings of a great Prince of Denmark? Benedict Nightingale gives his verdict on the new Donmar Warehouse production

Christmas wrapped up

■ For stress-free, armchair gift-hunting, the Weekend section offers its large and varied selection of mail-order catalogue buys

Dishing up the prizes

■ Also in Weekend, the results of *The Times*/Baron Philippe de Rothschild Cook of the Year 1993 competition.

TV LISTINGS

The fortunes of McLaren during the 1993 Formula One season are followed in a seven-part motor racing documentary. *The Team* (BBC2, 9.30pm) Page 47

OPINION

Power partners

In spite of the charge that the government does not care about the inner cities, its urban policy has been too urban. Without co-operation between public and private sector in deprived areas, aid from Whitehall will amount to little more than a short-term national dole. Page 21

Playing for time

Does London have too many symphony orchestras? That is the view of the Arts Council. But it must initiate a public debate before wielding the axe. Page 21

Castles in cold air

The last year by Euro-Disney of £614 million is twice as large as analysts expected. To survive, the magic kingdom may have to become a French national treasure. Pass the magic wand. Page 21

COLUMNS

BERNARD LEVIN

The poor devils of Hunan province in China will have to put up with a nine-year Mao towering over them and blotting out the light for half the day, but how can we explain the rush of people in free countries yearning to throw themselves beneath the wheels of the juggernaut? Page 20

DAVID PANNICK

The black defendant in a criminal case will not, nowadays, be faced by conscious racial prejudice. But ignorance of fundamental aspects of the lives of ethnic minorities, such as the importance of a dowry or wearing a turban, may still undermine the confidence of the witness or defendant, so racial awareness training is to be welcomed. Page 20

LETTERS

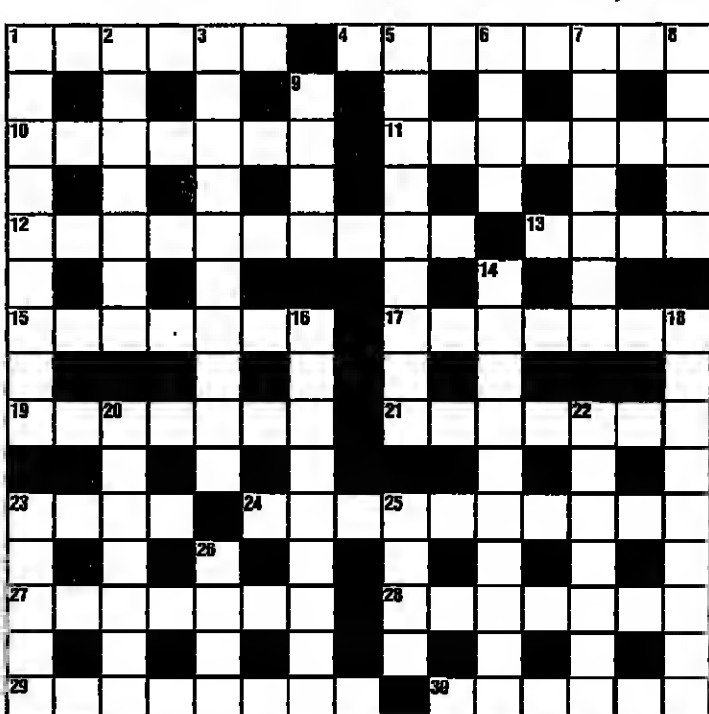
How stricter laws on squatting could affect homelessness. Page 21

THE PAPERS

Bill Clinton's presidency has never been so on track as it is with its fight for NAFTA. Al Gore's run through Ross Perot has stoked up the engine nicely. — *The Wall Street Journal*

Why anyone even listens any more to the quick-sale handgun hustlers who keep lobbying to weaken the Brady bill is hard to grasp. — *The Washington Post*

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 19,386



- ACROSS**
- 1 Champion horseman? (6)
 - 4 Not informed, I admit, about dinner (8)
 - 10 Ours is a dirty job — must end in disaster (7)
 - 11 Straight-faced cleric comprehends computer operations (7)
 - 12 Sailors' craft — a mishapen tramp (10)
 - 13 Clean city (4)
 - 15 One European left port without a cargo (7)
 - 17 Cut from hazel, a stick that's springy (7)
 - 19 Wild about journalist concerned with central government (7)
 - 21 Vehicle went fast — is in reverse (7)
 - 23 Accomplished young lady, by the sound of it (4)
 - 24 Elderly relative girl's in time to enrich (10)

Solution to Puzzle No 19,385

HONEYBEE S F E
B X U M B E A M
P L A T I V U E
I O R G A N I Z E R
V R U A E I
O I D I E U
A N T O N Y M A D D E S S
P A N E T E
P A L A T I A L S P H E R E
O T T O I E E
S U P E R N A T U R A L N
I T I T E L A N
T R E S P A S S E S T
E R N M A I R K I S M A N

- DOWN**
- 27 Conceal directions for reaching island (7)
 - 28 Plain vehicle going from South America to North America (7)
 - 29 Little creature with stripes of black and pink much confused (8)
 - 30 Provides the sailors, we hear, for a voyage (6)
 - 1 Children greedily eat a piece of cake (4,5)
 - 2 One pair of players unlikely to settle in (7)
 - 3 Hardy men do not usually become successful (4,3,3)
 - 5 In the gallery, actor's words convey piety (9)
 - 6 Vet in love with girl (4)
 - 7 Pitch a couple of coins, then stop (7)
 - 8 Rich not beginning to smell (5)
 - 9 The responsibility is ours (4)
 - 14 Six successful deliveries — and I've more organised (6,4)
 - 16 Colour never set in the wrong way (4,5)
 - 18 Make up a story, right in the middle, to show a mutual connection (9)
 - 20 Have I done the business? I represent a linker (7)
 - 22 One joining in song and one in wine (7)
 - 23 Add up over one hundred notes (5)
 - 25 Starts to revive — ever since the intermission (4)
 - 26 Call "Time!" (4)

Times Two Crossword, page 48

TIMES WEATHERCALL

For the latest region by region forecast, 24 hours a day, dial 0891 500 followed by the appropriate code

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Northampton, Suffolk, Cambs	707
West Midlands & Shropshire & Cheshire	708
Stratford, Hereford & Worcester	709
Central Midlands	710
East Midlands	711
Lincoln & Humberside	712
Dyfed & Pembrokeshire	713
Gwynedd & Clwyd	714
NW England	715
W & A Yorks & Dales	716
Yorkshire & Lancashire	717
Cumbria & Lake District	718
SW Scotland	719
W Central Scotland	720
Edinburgh & Borders	721
Central Scotland	722
Strathclyde & Highlands	723
NW Scotland	724
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M25/M26/M27/M28	731
M25/M26/M27/M28	732
M25/M26/M27/M28	733
M25/M26/M27/M28	734
M25/M26/M27/M28	735
M25/M26/M27/M28	736

National traffic and roadworks

National motorways

West Country

Wales

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WEATHER

There will be some sunshine to start the day. Scattered showers will affect western Scotland, western England, Wales and Northern Ireland in the morning. During the afternoon, showery weather will become more widespread with longer spells of rain in places. After dark, eastern England will also become wet. As the day goes on, it will become windy, especially in the southwest. Outlook: wet and windy tomorrow, more settled on Sunday.

ABROAD

MONDAY: 1=thunder, 2=drizzle, 3= fog, 4=sun, 5=st, 6=st, 7=st, 8=st, 9=st, 10=st, 11=st, 12=st

Algeria	17	30	1	Majorca	20	30	1
Algeria	22	72	1	Malaga	19	30	1
Algeria	22	72	1	Malaga	19	30	1
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denotes figures are latest available

LONDON

Yesterday: Temp max 6am to 6pm, 11C (52F); min 6pm to 6am, 5C (41F). Humidity, 60%. 24hr rain, 0.2mm. Rain: 24hr to 6pm, 0.2mm. 24hr to 6pm, 0.2mm. 24hr to 6pm, 0.2mm.

HIGHEST & LOWEST

Wednesday: Highest day temp Central London, 12C (54F). Lowest day temp, 5C (41F). Highest night temp, 8C (46F). Lowest night temp, 2C (36F). Rain: 24hr to 6pm, 0.2mm. 24hr to 6pm, 0.2mm. 24hr to 6pm, 0.2mm.

MANCHESTER

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GLASGOW

Yesterday: Temp max 6am to 6pm, 9C (48F); min 6pm to 6am, 2C (36F). Rain: 24hr to 6pm, 0.2mm. 24hr to 6pm, 0.2mm. 24hr to 6pm, 0.2mm.

AROUND BRITAIN

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LIGHTING-UP TIMES

London 4.46 pm to 8.43 am
Bristol 4.50 pm to 8.53 am
Edinburgh 4.41 pm to 8.13 am
Manchester 4.47 pm to 8.59 am
Penzance 5.12 pm to 7.00 am

YESTERDAY

Temperatures at midday yesterday, c. cloud, f. rain, s. sun

Belfast	6	51	Guernsey	10	50
Birmingham	9	48	Inverness	7	45
Blackpool	9	48	Jersey	12	54
Bristol	10	50	London	9	48
Cardiff	11	52	Manchester	11	52
Edinburgh	7	45	Newcastle	11	52
Glasgow	8	46	Penzance	8	46

HIGH TIDES

TODAY AM HT PM HT

	AM	HT	PM	HT
NDAY				
London Bridge			12:04	7:07
Aberdeen	11:40	4.3	11:54	4.5
Donmouth	5:20	12.7	6:44	13.5
Strait	9:10	3.4	8:25	3.4
Donport	5:05	11.7	5:29	12.1
Donport	3:58	5.3	4:16	5.5
Donmouth	5:05	6:6	9:29	8.8
Donmouth	3:26	5.1	3:48	5.1
Donmouth	11:23	4.8	11:22	4.5
Donmouth	9:52	3.8	10:31	4.0
Donmouth	8:29	5.5	9:47	5.6
Donmouth	4:10	7.3	4:51	7.4
Donmouth	4:00	8.9	4:26	9.2
Donmouth	4:22	6.4	5:03	6.6



INFOTECH 32-36

How Rabbit's telepoint reached end of the line



ARTS 37-39

Posthumous plaudits for Roger Hilton



SPORT 43-48

Tennis plays ball with rock and roll

SUPERCARS: NOT QUITE SO SMART
Motoring, 41

THE TIMES

FRIDAY NOVEMBER 12 1993

New SE chief starts with a warning

By Patricia Tehan

MICHAEL Lawrence, the new chief executive of the Stock Exchange, told his colleagues yesterday that if the exchange did not do its job properly, then it would have no future.

Mr Lawrence, finance director of the Prudential Corporation, the UK's biggest insurer, starts his new job at the beginning of February.

The Stock Exchange had been looking for a new head since the resignation of Peter Rawlings in March after the decision to abandon the Taurus share settlements system.

Mr Lawrence, 50, will be taking a cut from his £240,000 basic salary, with a bonus of up to 30 per cent and share options with Prudential.

He said that he was unwilling to comment on the handling of Taurus and whether the exchange should have a role in share settlements services. He added: "I am going to the exchange with an open mind about most things. I do not want to get sucked into instant positions on possible decisions that might be made once I arrive."

He said he was approached four weeks ago by Heidrick & Struggles, a headhunter, and that he was interested in the job because "I love to deal with change."

The Prudential has been through a period of change since he joined, as the directors returned the business to its core activities, pulling out



Stanley Kalms, chairman of Dixons, has had his allegations of unfair competition from the electricity companies turned down by the OFT

Electricity companies lose £172m on stores

By Susan Gilchrist

THE regional electricity companies have made losses of more than £172 million in their retail operations since privatisation three years ago.

The companies were forced to reveal the scale of these losses following investigations by Ofwat, the electricity industry regulator, and the Office of Fair Trading. The enquiries were prompted by complaints put forward by Dixons last December that it faced unfair competition from the RECs, which were using profits from their regulated core businesses to cross-subsidise their loss-making retail activities.

While Professor Stephen Littlechild, director-general of Ofwat, stopped short of accusing the RECs of cross-subsidising their high street showrooms, he called for the companies to publish the accounts

Shareholders will be told in annual reports the size of any losses on retail operations. But the regulator ruled that the RECs were not abusing their licence

of their retail businesses separately in their annual reports so that shareholders could see the size of any losses and make a more informed assessment.

Professor Littlechild concluded that the losses are not an abuse of the RECs' licences because they are at the expense of shareholders rather than consumers. "Electricity prices and profits are not higher as a result of retail losses than they otherwise would have been," he added. "Whether it is commercially sensible to incur such losses is a matter for shareholders."

Mark Souhami, deputy chairman of Dixons, said Of-

Eastern and Southern, have merged their high street operations to cut costs.

Shares in the electricity sector rose yesterday on hopes that Ofwat's report would encourage more companies to pull out of retailing. Dixons' shares slipped 2p to 283p.

Professor Littlechild also found evidence that some RECs were using customers' energy bill payment records to assess credit worthiness for appliance sales in their high street showrooms without consent. He said that this may be in breach of Section 57 of the Electricity Act.

Despite the size of the retail losses, Sir Bryan Carsberg, director-general of the OFT, rejected Dixons' allegations of unfair competition and said no formal action would be taken. Sir Bryan said: "I accept, on the basis of Ofwat's investigation, that the RECs' retailing activities are loss-making; but I have concluded that no REC is significant enough to command market power. It is most unlikely that any REC could contemplate a strategy aimed at ousting from the market such well-established competitors as Dixons and then recouping its losses out of higher retail prices."

The RECs hold just over 14 per cent of the electricals market — 2 per cent higher than pre-privatisation — while Dixons, whose chairman is Stanley Kalms, has 17 per cent.

However, he voiced his support for greater clarity of the performance of the retail businesses in the RECs' published accounts in order to "give shareholders the information they need to exert control in this area."

Another bad day for Euro Disney

By Patricia Tehan and Philip Robinson

EURO Disney shares lost 15.6 per cent of their value yesterday, plummeting 68p to 368p in trading on the London stock market. The fall came after Wednesday's announcement that the theme park had made a Fr5.3 billion net loss in the year to end-September and is in dire need of extra finance.

The shares had fallen 70p on Wednesday after the announcement that the finances must be restructured by the spring if the park is to survive.

Traders of distressed debt on the secondary debt market also marked down the value of Euro Disney's debt, to about 70 per cent of its par value. It had been trading in the high 70s earlier in the week. Euro Disney's net debts at the end of September were Fr20.3 billion, compared with Fr18.6 billion a year ago.

Despite the Euro Disney problems, Walt Disney, which owns 49 per cent of shares, said yesterday it is continuing its US expansion with a 185-acre theme park planned for a small village in Virginia to celebrate what it describes as American history, culture and life.

There will be a 150-room hotel and Disney says it will attract 30,000 visitors a day. Building would take three years and start in 1995.

While Euro Disney shares plunged yesterday, shareholders of Walt Disney in America are feeling no pain at all from the crisis in its European operations. The shares held steady at \$41.25 on Wall Street, just \$5 off this year's high, benefiting from a 19 per cent rise in the May dividend.

New York analysts say the French banks will be forced to swap some of their debt into equity to avoid carrying it on their books as non-performing loans in the run up to the French government's ambitious privatisation programme.

BUSINESS EDITOR Robert Ballantyne

BUSINESS TODAY

FREE WHEEL



Land Rover has been transformed from a sprawling mess by a workforce that would be the envy of even the Japanese
Page 29

FREE FIGHT

The chairman of a Lloyd's action group has little faith in settlement with the insurance market and expects a court fight
Page 25

FREE STANDING



Pearson yesterday revealed terms of the demerger of Royal Doulton, which will be floated off by the media group next month
Page 27, Campus 29

FREE MAN

Roy Ashman, former chairman of Harland Simon Group, was cleared of duping investors into buying shares
Page 26

Doom casts pall, page 16

Pennington, page 27



Lawrence: "open mind"

of estate agency, UK commercial insurance and overseas general insurance business.

Mr Lawrence said: "The exchange has gone through substantial change since Big Bang. It is no longer the professional institution of brokers. It no longer has a monopoly, but there is a real role for a central market place in order to provide participants in the market place with certain things."

He said it could provide an overview of what was going on and ensure that the market was fair to all users, including market-makers, companies, and institutional investors.

Prudential is to recruit a new finance director externally.

Pennington, page 27

Volvo plans cash call if Renault merger fails

By Colin Narbrough, World Trade Correspondent

VOLVO, the Swedish car and truck maker, has drawn up a "go-it-alone" strategy, involving a 5 billion kronor (£416 million) rights issue, in case shareholder resistance forces it to abort its planned merger with Renault, the state-owned French automotive group.

The fall-back option of a capital injection, which would be used primarily to refinance Volvo's car division, the weak side of its automotive operations, is understood to have been well received in discreet sampling by Volvo of shareholder opinion.

Hans Rehnström, a Volvo spokesman, said yesterday that the company had prepared the rights issue as part of an alternative, if the Renault deal failed. "We have to safeguard ourselves against every eventuality. It is no secret that we need a capital injection," he said.

Sören Gyll, the Volvo chief executive, fuelled doubts about the Renault-Volvo merger with remarks on Swedish television, suggesting that he backed renegotiation of the September's merger pact.

Mr Rehnström said Mr Gyll's remarks had been misinterpreted as signalling Volvo's desire to renegotiate. "There was no thought of renegotiation," he said.

Louis Schweitzer, the Renault chairman, has ruled out any chance of the merger, supposed to take effect in January, being renegotiated.

Mr Davis insisted that applicants will be "seriously vetted" to ensure they are "fit and proper" to run the UK lottery which he was confident would be "among the most successful in the world". He let it be known that "other government departments and agencies" were likely to be called upon to assist in the

Oflot raises the curtain on National Lottery

By Melvyn Marcus, City Editor

PETER Davis, director-general of the National Lottery, raised the curtain on the UK's much vaunted £2 billion to £4 billion funder yesterday with news that the licence to operate the lottery, expected to be awarded next May, will run for a little less than seven years.

Mr Davis insisted that applicants will be "seriously vetted" to ensure they are "fit and proper" to run the UK lottery which he was confident would be "among the most successful in the world". He let it be known that "other government departments and agencies" were likely to be called upon to assist in the

vetting procedure. His remarks accompanied the Office of the National Lottery's publication of outline tender conditions — a draft "Invitation to Apply" — together with a draft of the proposed licence.

Final tender documents will be published in mid-December and potential operators, who will be expected to submit their plans for national coverage and a launch date for the lottery, must make their bids by mid-February.

Mr Davis said system security and propriety would be "of the greatest importance". He also stressed that he would have wide ranging access to "inspect and regulate" the

lottery operation. The key proposals are:

- The principal licence will run until March 31, 2001.
- Applicants will be expected to show a "decreasing percentage of turnover spent on administration costs" as turnover increases, thus "maximising the proportion of turnover" to be distributed to good causes.
- Applicants will be required to draw up a "customer's charter" including performance standards for customer services.
- A share of proceeds from television rights, and other ancillary merchandising, will be returned to good causes.

Mr Davis, who is "seeking comments" on the draft proposals by the end of November, declared: "Applicants will have to provide information on their structure and organisation, with sound integrated business plans based upon market research."

Various consortia who intend to bid for the licence, such as Camelot, The Great British Lottery Company and NM Rothschild, were still studying the government's guidelines last night. Disappointment was expressed by certain contenders that the licence period was not longer in view of projected capital expenditure on the project of between £200 million and £250 million.

STOCK MARKET		THE POUND		GOLD	
	FT-SE 100		Dm		BRENT CRUDE
	3099.7 +1.2		2.4973 +0.0024		\$15.70 per barrel (Dec)
	DOW JONES		US \$		
	3671.93 +8.38		1.4790 +0.0045		

LONDON CLOSING PRICES MARKETS IN DETAIL PAGE 28, SHARE PRICES PAGE 31

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Civil engineers forecast falling workload

By Philip Bassett
Industrial Editor

Civil engineering companies forecast a sharp decline in their workload in the latest industrial survey, which further underlines the fragility of Britain's economic recovery.

The latest findings from the Federation of Civil Engineering Contractors are in line with the range of recent large-scale industrial surveys, which all suggest that industry is far from fully emerging from recession and that the state of the recovery is more tentative, both in terms of its

strength and its extent, than government ministers would like to see.

Civil engineering leaders will today call on Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor to do nothing in the Budget that will impede recovery, based on the results of the survey, which indicates both that the industry remains in recession and any rate of improvement is not accelerating.

The survey, covering companies with work totalling about £4 billion, in an industry that accounts for a quarter of all construction output, shows what the federation calls a "definite dip" in companies' expecta-

tions of forthcoming new orders. The balance of companies expecting orders to fall — those forecasting a rise against those expecting a fall — has increased from 16 to 29 per cent.

The findings showed considerable variation by both region and size of firm, with larger companies doing a little better, smaller companies holding their own and middle-sized companies "experiencing a rough time", the federation said.

While civil engineering companies in London and the South East have seen the largest relative declines in business during the recession, firms

in these areas are now giving the clearest signals of improvement. The federation said that many companies in the region had been encouraged by approval for the extension of London's Jubilee Line finally being given, even though several key contracts have gone to foreign firms.

Two out of three companies across the country are reporting lower margins, and the number of companies reporting rising costs has slipped back. John Hackett, the federation's director-general, said: "Our message to the Chancellor from this survey is absolutely clear. The civil engineer-

ing industry as a whole is still in recession, but here and there we can see signs of recovery. We urge Mr Clarke to introduce a Budget that keeps up investment in Britain's infrastructure, and thereby assists recovery in civil engineering workload and jobs." □ Britain's trade with other EC countries is either holding up — or improving, according to a survey from the Birmingham Chamber of Commerce. After polling 1,000 of its members that export to the EC, it found trade is up this year on 1992 with seven of Britain's EC partners and holding steady with others.

Names set to fight Lloyd's in the courts

By Sarah Bagnall, Insurance Correspondent

MICHAEL Deeny, chairman of the 3,000-member strong Gooda Walker Action Group, told its annual meeting that he expected the battle for compensation would be fought through the courts because he had little faith in the impending Lloyd's settlement offer.

During his 40-minute speech, Mr Deeny spoke of the progress of Lloyd's attempt to reach a negotiated settlement offer to loss-making names by the end of the month. He said that the errors and commissions insurers, which provided cover for the members' agents, "are only offering about £300 million," a level he said was "unacceptable".

However, he said after three hours of talks with the Lloyd's financial panel last week, "I believe we managed to convince the majority of the panel that the E&O insurers exposure was in excess of £1 billion and possibly considerably more".

As a result of this meeting, Peter Middleton, Lloyd's chief executive, and David Rowland, Lloyd's chairman, are "making a renewed effort to extract further funds from the E&O insurers", Mr Deeny said. However, he stressed there was no concrete offer, which would include a contribution from Lloyd's, on the table, but that there was a "very small possibility" that the E&O insurers would raise their offer to £400 million, while Lloyd's could stump up £600 million.

He was addressing more than 400 names at the action group's annual meeting at the Grosvenor House Hotel in London. Mr Deeny said: "There is very little chance of settlement this year. When there is a settlement, and it will be a very different kind of

settlement, it will be the end of next year, after our case has been heard." He said he was aware that "many of our names do not want to settle at any price", though it was unlikely that there would be a settlement even worth considering. But if there was, then the offer would be put to the vote at a special meeting.

The action group represents 3,063 Lloyd's names taking legal action against 71 members' agents to recover £553 million of insurance losses, incurred from the notorious LMX spiral. The case is due in court next April.

Mr Deeny warned members that Lloyd's may attempt to "bounce us into an agreement" by trying to convince names that this is the only hope of a settlement.

One ruined name said any settlement with the corporation would be a compromise, but the action group's chances of success in the courts was "almost guaranteed". The name added: "I believe that the Gooda Walker names are not in the business of compromise and would say: no compromise, no deal, we will see you in court."

Mr Deeny also told names that next year action would be taken against Littlejohn Fraser, the auditor, as a result of the non-disclosure of time and distance policies, which flattered the syndicates' results. □ In contrast to the recent lacklustre demand for shares in two of the new Lloyd's limited liability investment trusts, London Insurance Market Investment Trust's share offer to raise £280 million was oversubscribed. Institutions snapped up the bulk of the offer with the public taking £12.8 million.

Burton shares drop despite profit



Richard North, left, finance director, with John Hoerner, chief executive

THE City registered its disappointment with the pace of recovery at Burton by marking the shares down by 14 per cent yesterday despite a return to profit by the fashion retailer.

Burton shares fell 10.75p to close at 66.4p yesterday after the group announced pre-tax profits of £18.5 million for the year to August 28, against a loss of £800,000 last time. However, analysts were disappointed by the low contribution from the group's multiple chains, which include Dorothy Perkins, Burtons and Top Shop.

A final dividend of 1p brings the total to 2p, unchanged on last year.

Total retail profits from ongoing businesses rose by 72 per cent from £37.8 million to £65 million. Much of the rise was due to a strong performance from the Debenhams department stores, which increased profits from £31.7 million to £57.7 million. The multiples lifted profits by £12 million to £73 million on sales of more than £1 billion.

Mr Hoerner said new formats currently being rolled out across the group's 1,700 stores have produced sales increases of about 10 per cent. A third of the estate will be refurbished in the current year with the remainder completed in the following two years.

Tempus, page 29

Northumbrian Water pulling out of Amtec

By Carl Mortished

NORTHUMBRIAN Water is pulling out of Amtec, its underground pipe surveying business. The water company has decided to close or sell the loss-making subsidiary, which uses robot technology to maintain pipelines, because its main customers, the water industry, are delaying capital expenditure in the run-up to the Ofwat periodic review.

The £9 million provision for Amtec caused interim pre-tax profits at Northumbrian to fall from £39.2 million to £22.6 million after a rise in the operating return from £34

million to £39 million. Northumbrian made an overall loss from non-core operations in the six months to September 30 of £400,000 compared with a profit of £3.4 million in the previous year. Operating profits in the core water and sewerage business rose from £30.5 million to £39.2 million. Earnings per share fell from 56.7p to 30.3p but the dividend is up from 7.5p to 8.1p.

David Cranston, chief executive, expected capital expenditure to rise to between £150 million and £200 million in the five years to 2000.

BAe in talks with Saab to back Gripen fighter

By Colin Narbrough, World Trade Correspondent

BRITISH Aerospace is discussing a possible development and marketing deal with Saab-Scania for the troubled new Swedish fighter. Two prototypes have crashed, one into Stockholm harbour.

The multi-purpose JAS 39 Gripen has so far cost Sweden about £1.7 billion. It would fill a gap in BAe's model range between Hawk and the politically embattled Euro-fighter. Saab holds 65 per cent of JAS, the Gripen builder. Volvo's aero-engine arm and Ericsson are big stakeholders.

BAe has an agreement with

Saab to provide Gripen wings, but co-operation being discussed would go further. BAe said. The report said BAe intends to become a full partner in the Gripen, seen as crucial to the survival of Sweden's military aircraft potential.

Jan Almgren, a spokesman for Saab's military aircraft arm, rejected any suggestion that the Gripen project was in difficulty. Saab had agreed with BAe to "investigate possibilities of future co-operation". Talks were also in progress with Dassault of France and Northrop of America.

Harland Simon ex-chief cleared

By a Correspondent

ROY Ashman, 64, former chairman of Harland Simon Group, walked free yesterday after he was cleared of duping investors into buying shares.

He had been accused of leading two fund managers into believing that the electronic controls company's pre-tax profits would be £13 million to £14 million when he knew they would be less than half that figure.

At the end of a five-day trial at Aylesbury Crown Court, Mr Ashman, of The Chowns, Harpenden, Herts, was acquitted of making a misleading statement contrary to section 47 of the Financial Services Act 1986.

After a meeting with Mr Ashman on February 10 last year, Nigel Savage and Marc Gordon bought 155,000 HSG

shares worth almost £1 million, hours before a revised forecast sent the share price from 585p to 270p. The two men, who managed the investment portfolio of Govett Strategic Investment, claimed Mr Ashman had misled them.

Mr Ashman denied that he knew at the time that his firm's projected pre-tax profits could be as low as £4.1 million. He also denied that he had passed on any information about profits, claiming that Savage was "getting around to questions he should not have been asking" about anticipated year-end returns.

Mr Ashman was instrumental in the buy-out of Harland Simon in 1980 and turned the company from break-even then to pre-tax profits of £10.3 million in 1991.

COMPANY NEWS IN BRIEF

APPLEBY WWARD (Int)
Pre-tax: £730,000 (£1m)
EPS: 8.5p (11.9p)
Div: 3.2p (3.2p)

CHANNEL HOLDINGS (Int)
Pre-tax: £808,000
EPS: 1.9p (1.3p)
Div: 0.5p (nil)

MOLYNEUX EST (Fin)
Pre-tax: £253m loss
EPS: 11.24p loss
Div: 1p (nil)

WARNER HOWARD (Int)
Pre-tax: £3,22m (£3m)
EPS: 9.11p (8.59p)
Div: 2.27p (2.12p)

WILSHAW (Int)
Pre-tax: £1,36m
EPS: 1.05p (0.60p)
Div: 0.2p (0.15p)

PENNA (Int)
Pre-tax: £118,000 loss
EPS: 2p loss
Div: 1p (3p)

Turnover fell to £38.2m from £41.55m. Following agreement with Watson & Philip, company is servicing further 100 stores

Previous interim profit was £191,000. Cash generation will remain strong and further progress expected in second half

Previous loss was £1.1 million, with a deficit of 3.07p a share. Net assets stated at 62.75p a share

Turnover fell to £10.7 million from £11.23 million. Trading conditions remain difficult, with no improvement seen in second half

Previous interim profit was £809,000. Turnover rose to £17.96 million from £15.3 million. Gearing eased to 49.4% (57.8%)

Previous interim profit was £1.03 million, with earnings of 13.9p. Outplacement market is less active than last year

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

VSEL talks continue on sale of closed yard sites

VSEL, the Trident submarine builder, says talks with a prospective buyer of the shipbuilding areas of the Birkenhead Yard on the River Mersey, which was closed in July, are continuing. VSEL adds that it will be several months before the board knows whether the government's current defence expenditure review will require changes to the group's overall plans.

VSEL is, meanwhile, following up naval and land opportunities in a number of export markets. Lord Chalfont, chairman, adds. On a turnover of £233.2 million (£234 million), the group earned pre-tax profits of £28.8 million (£25.9 million) in the six months to September 30, of which the net interest element was £4.1 million (£7 million). The dividend rises from 9p to 10.5p a share. Lord Chalfont says results for the second half should be at least at the level achieved in the first half, and says he remains encouraged by prospects for the group's next financial year. Tempus, page 29

Ruberoid priced at 150p

SHARES in Ruberoid, the roofing group being floated off by Tarmac, have been priced at a lower-than-expected 150p each, valuing the company at £72 million. In a move by its advisers to ensure the sale goes smoothly, the offer price puts the group on a steep discount to existing building material and contracting groups on the stock market, which should ensure strong demand from both institutions and retail investors in the combined placing and offer for sale. Ruberoid forecasts it will make a £7 million profit this year, compared with a £6.6 million loss in 1992. Tempus, page 29

Bank of Ireland ahead

BANK of Ireland reported improved earnings for the six months to the end of September, helped by a turnaround in its British branch network. Pre-tax profits almost doubled to Ir£131 million (£124.8 million) from Ir£65.3 million in the previous year and earnings improved 130 per cent to 15.2p a share. Total assets rose 7 per cent to Ir£16.8 billion. An interim dividend of 3.75p a share was declared, up 20 per cent. Bank of Ireland's branches in Britain made Ir£1 million, against a loss of Ir£5.7 million last time. The bank has British assets of Ir£3.5 billion.

Maddox seeks injection

MADDOX Group, the computer-leasing company, has asked shareholders for a life-saving cash injection after plunging into the red by £18.9 million before tax in the six months to June 30. Hugo Biermann, who has resigned as chairman "to pursue other business interests", formed Maddox in 1992 with City support. Interim losses were dominated by provisions of £15.7 million against an investment in Lanek Instruments. Maddox proposes an underwritten £3.9 million rights issue of seven new shares for every eight held at 1p each. The shares fell from 3p to 1.4p.

Orders surge at Oxford

SHARES of Oxford Instruments, the advanced instrumentation company, rose 7p to 295p on a healthy rise in interim profits and a continued recovery in orders. Pre-tax profits for the six months to 26 September rose 19 per cent to £5.1 million, helped by the lower value of sterling and reduced losses in its Plasma Technology operation. Turnover advanced 8 per cent to £43.6 million. The interim dividend rises 7 per cent to 1.5p and earnings per share 12 per cent to 6.6p. Peter Williams, chairman and chief executive, said orders were up 10 per cent from the start of the year.

Parcel group's shares fall

SHARES in Business Post Group, the UK's biggest independent parcel and mail express company, which was floated in July, fell 22p to 113p, against the 120p placing price, in spite of a 14.9 per cent rise in maiden interim profits. It reported pre-tax profits ahead of £2.19 million in the six months to end-September. Peter Kane, right, chairman, said the second half of the year had started well. Maiden interim dividend is 1.2p against a notional 0.97p.



Waddington moves up

JOHN Waddington, the printing, packaging and board games group, increased interim profits to £9 million from £7.8 million, helped by a 59 per cent rise in the contribution from its American food services business, and strong growth in cartons. Turnover grew to £118.2 million (£108 million). Earnings were 8.13p a share (up from 7p) and the interim dividend is 3.8p a share (3.6p). The company said it remained cautious about prospects for the UK economy but was confident about its own outlook this year. It continues to seek opportunities to expand in America. Its shares fell 9p to 248p.



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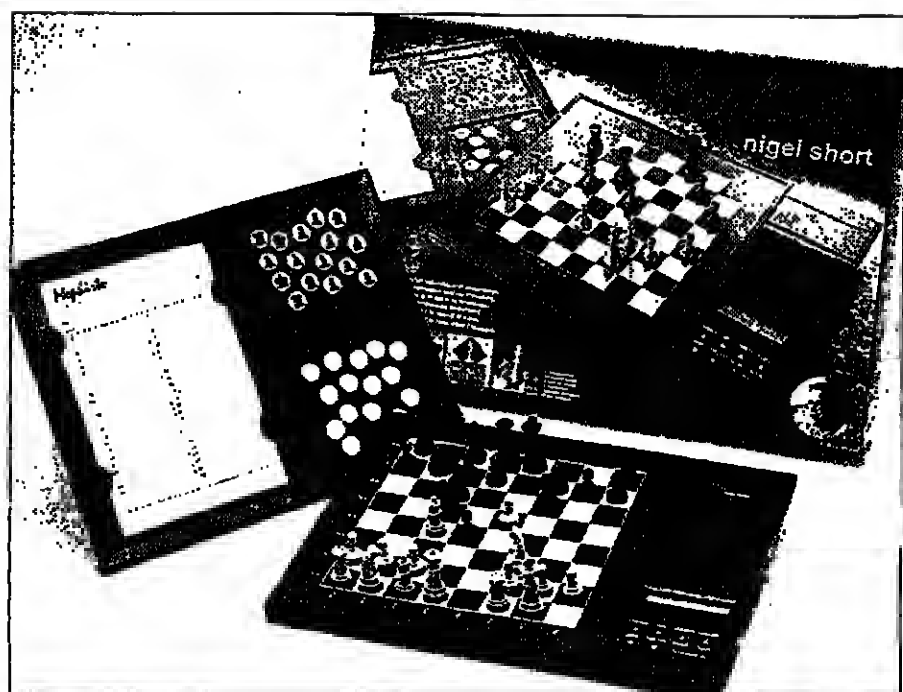
The value of shares can fall as well as rise and investors may get back less than the amount invested when the shares are sold.

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هكذا من الأصل

□ National flutter is no licence to print money □ An offer shareholders cannot refuse □ Steering a shrinking exchange

Swatting the lottery fly-by-nights

IF THE government's intention, by way of the publication of two National Lottery tomes yesterday, was too swat any fly-by-night operators early on in the bidding procedure, then it can take comfort that, in all probability, it has manifestly succeeded.

Peter Davis, Director General of the National Lottery, confessed (sensibly enough) yesterday that he had "no idea" how many licence applications he will receive — come the bidding deadline of mid-February. The snap reaction from the private sector last night — as advisers attempted to analyse Oflot's 108-page "Draft Invitation to Apply" — was that not a few potential consortium members might, in view of the government's stern guidelines, choose to fold their tents.

It is no secret that various consortia, such as Camelot and the Great British Lottery Company, favoured a ten-year licence (they would, wouldn't they?). Five years, so the lobbying went, would not permit the leeway for a reasonable return on a capital spend estimated at anything up to £250 million. In the event, Oflot has opted for "approximately seven years" — to March 31, 2001 — on the assumption that the licence is granted in May/June 1994. Oflot, eager to see funds flowing to "good causes" as swiftly as possible, still harbours hopes of a 1994 autumn launch but, what Davis is likely to hear

from several consortia, is that attempting to gatecrash the retail community during the run up to Christmas may prove no easy task. All of which indicates a possible launch date run-over to early 1995 with the money spinning span of the licence cut to significantly nearer six years than seven.

Davis insisted yesterday that "much thought" had gone into the time span of the licence and added that he was "confident" that the six-seven year time-frame would not deter "serious bidders". That said, back in the cosy confines of the Abbey National (where the director general has retained his post of deputy chairman) it is quite conceivable that Davis has been somewhat shielded from the commercial perspectives of such serious personages as GEC's Lord Westminster, GEC and Thorn-EMI are contemplating the formation of a consortium in conjunction with the Tote — depending on the government's guidelines. It will be interesting to see whether this duo — the antithesis of fly-by-night enterprises — choose to press ahead.

Strict vetting procedures (be-

ware white suits carrying violin cases) are promised by Davis, with a little bit of help from various government departments and "regulatory organisations overseas".

Regulations to protect the consumer — including a ban on lottery ticket sales to the under-16s and a three consecutive game limit on the rollover of unwon prizes — are much as expected, as is the government's decision not to publish details of individual tenders.

All of which leaves potential operators to dwell on the licence span and the sliding take on turnover — anticipated but not necessarily welcomed.

Rewiring a faulty plug

□ THERE is a comforting statesmanlike quality about the electricity regulator's report on the retail businesses of the electricity companies. His message is that if a company chooses to prop up an unregulated business, that is a matter for its managers and shareholders. In other words, why need Ofot get embroiled in such



fine arguments over the margins of competition when the capital market can sort it out? That looks a good judgment. By raising the issue of the loss-making showrooms and exposing the extent of their losses, Stanley Kalms of Dixons has surely done a good turn to shareholders in the regional utilities.

Judging by the reaction on the Stock Exchange, where the utilities' shares were randomly marked up and Dixons was marked down, big investors have certainly taken notice. Whether they were relieved that no action was forced on the companies or, as the more intelligent analysts would like to think, rubbing their hands at the losses red-faced managers would now be forced to

remove, is far from clear. After all, shares in companies that have signalled their exit from retail, or are already merging and restructuring their operations with their neighbours, went up just as much as the unreconstructed.

Evidently, there are mental adjustments to be made. The retail chains may be separate and non-regulated, but they are still to some extent seen as marketing arms for a variety of services. And the electricity industry as a whole still sees appliance sales as an important way of promoting electricity demand, as it always has. Looking further ahead, the showrooms might also be seen as some protection when other companies are free to sell electricity through their wires to households, as they surely eventually will.

Meanwhile, performance looks strikingly poor, illustrating that the showrooms have not been managed efficiently as retail operations. In 1992-3, they collectively lost £10 million on operations and £47 million after post-privatisation restructuring charges. This puts the performance of Dixons, which has 17 per cent of the market compared with 14 per cent collec-

tively controlled by the RECs, in a strikingly good light.

Whatever the OFT may say, the RECs' retailing behaviour looks like unfair competition, since they have high market shares locally. The saving grace for the likes of Dixons and Kingfisher is that the competition has evidently proved ineffective. Smaller firms might have a better complaint: their demise in large numbers during the recession probably accounts for the two-point increase in the RECs' market share.

New head for the incredible hulk

COULD change and exchange be too onomatopoeic for the London Stock Exchange's good? Peter Rawlins was recruited to be chief executive as an expert in the management of change and information technology, because the worthies in the Throgmorton Street tower were anxious that they might not be able to control Taurus. The result is history. Former Price Waterhouse partner Michael Lawrence, the next incumbent, is likewise an expert in

change. His recent track record is, however, more in restructuring: rethinking National Bus and helping take the hard decisions needed to shrink the Prudential back to its core.

The exchange he will move into already looks like the City's most incredibly shrinking hulk. Regulation of member firms was needed to what is now the Securities and Futures Authority under the Financial Services Act. The physical market quickly disappeared after Big Bang. When the exchange became more business-like under Mr Rawlins and his chairman, Sir Andrew Hugh Smith, individual members were shuffled off into the Securities Institute and promotion of share ownership to ProShare. After the Taurus debacle, Sir Hugh handed the future of electronic settlement over to the Bank of England.

More recently, Sir Hugh has resurrected the essential truth that the exchange and its members are there to make money and that if City regulation is to move up several notches, the exchange would sooner the Securities and Investments Board, or someone else, take on the role of central City policeman. Once the bureaucracy is slimmer further and the tower itself is sold to the demolition men, you might not think there will be much left for Mr Lawrence and Sir Hugh's own successor to rationalise.

Pearson lays the way for china group

By PHILIP PANGALOS

SHAREHOLDERS in Pearson will receive one Royal Doulton share for every ten shares held when the fine china maker is demerged from its media-to-banking parent.

Under the proposed demerger, Royal Doulton will be floated as part of its parent's strategy to focus on media and entertainment. Approval is needed from Pearson shareholders at an extraordinary meeting on December 1. Dealing in Royal Doulton is due to start on December 2. The City expects the group to be valued between £110 million and £140 million.

Royal Doulton's annual sales amounted to £201 million last year, with more than 50 per cent exports and an operating margin of 10.9 per cent. But sales were only maintained at the expense of margins.

Royal Doulton's sales rose 4 per cent in the first six months of 1993 to £96.7 million, but the group suffered a pre-tax loss of £3.8 million, not helped by an absurd exceptional charge of £2 million passed on by Pearson and relating to the *Financial Post*, the Canadian newspaper that has nothing to

do with Royal Doulton. The company forecasts a pro forma dividend of 6.6p for 1993. Shareholders will receive a final payout of 3p for 1993, if they hold on to their Royal Doulton shares until April 21 next year.

Royal Doulton hopes to see a profit recovery next year. Stuart Lyons, chief executive, said Britain and America are seeing a modest recovery, but Canada, Germany and Japan are still in recession.

Gearing on a pro forma basis amounts to 37.9 per cent, but borrowing is traditionally higher in the first ten months of the year as the group builds up to the important Christmas period. Peter Walley, Royal Doulton's finance director, expects year-end gearing to be no higher than 25 per cent.

Pearson, whose interests span the *Financial Times* to Madame Tussaud's and a 50 per cent stake in Lazard Brothers, reported a jump in third quarter pre-tax profits to £100.6 million (£61.7 million). It made £46.3 million in the first half.

Pearson shares advanced 16p to 574p.

Tempus, page 29



Stuart Lyons, of Royal Doulton, yesterday

Shell shares suffer on chemical losses

By CARL MORTSHED

SHARES in Shell Transport, the UK arm of the Anglo-Dutch oil company, fell 18p to 704p yesterday on concern over continuing losses in its world-wide chemicals business and disappointment over the extent of the improvement in downstream refining and marketing margins.

Current cost earnings for the three months to end-September rose 8 per cent to £861 million, helped by sterling's depreciation against the dollar. Exploration and production earnings were up 52 per cent to £558 million and better refining margins helped to boost the downstream businesses from £302 million to £412 million.

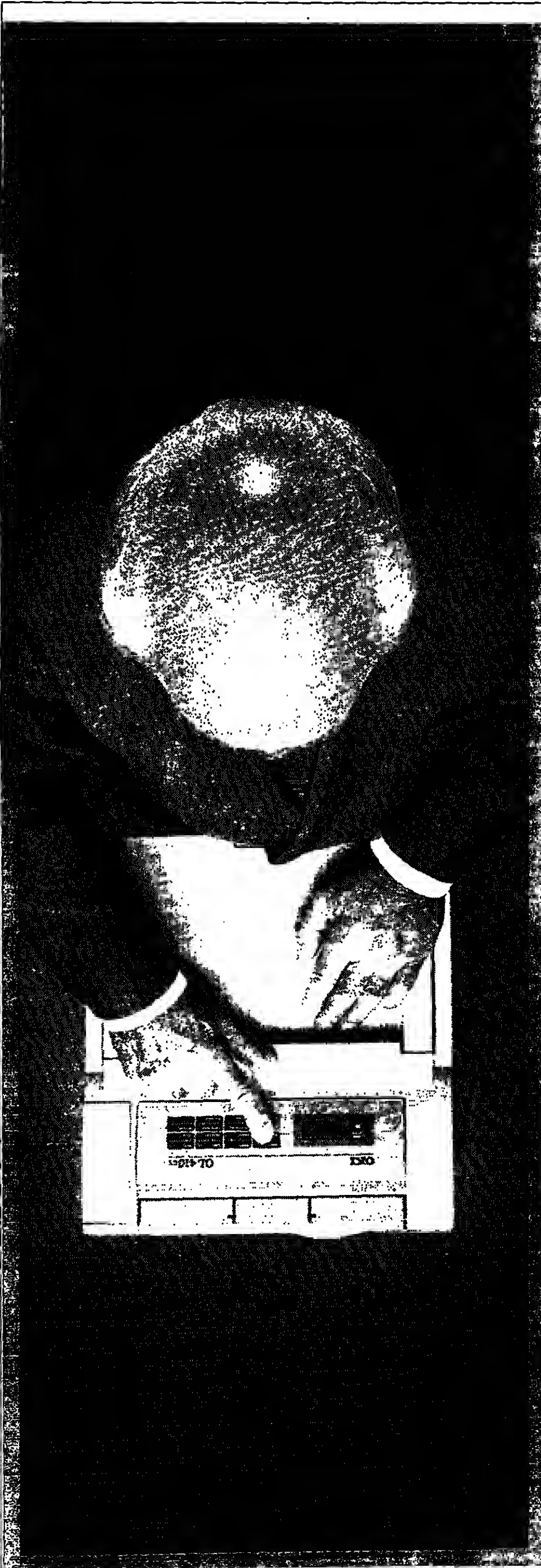
The company reported that Brent crude prices were \$3.50 below their level in 1992. The fall in supply costs alongside a 7 per cent rise in lower unit intake helped to lower unit operating costs and boosted margins. However, analysts

said the market was expecting even better performance after BP's 78 per cent improvement to its European downstream profits, announced last week.

Losses from the petrochemicals operations increased to £168 million from £41 million in the same period last year. Overcapacity in commodity chemicals has lost Shell £341 million in the first nine months of the year. The third quarter deficit included £171 million in restructuring charges; Shell has provided £363 million in restructuring provisions for the nine months to September.

The disposal of Billiton, Shell's metals business, may be delayed. The purchaser, Gencor of South Africa, has warned that it may have problems financing the project. Gencor needs to raise money abroad due to South African rules barring capital exports.

Tempus, page 29



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How Land Rover pulled itself out of the mire

Improved working practices have helped to transform the once-ailing British vehicle manufacturer, writes Kevin Eason

Terry Morgan does not mind what his workers say about him. In fact, the managing director of Land Rover positively encourages criticism. He asks the company's 8,000 workers to write down what they think in an anonymous survey, no holds barred. The results could be devastating for the dictatorial bosses of some companies, but when you are riding as high as Land Rover, the criticism turns out to be friendly chiding rather than stinging personal attacks.

For Morgan presides over one of Britain's most fascinating success stories. Only one in ten of UK companies are world-class innovators, according to the Confederation of British Industry and the Department of Trade and Industry. Land Rover has proved so adept at changing to meet the challenge of one of the most turbulent times in the world car market that it is being held up as an example to others by the DTI.

Ten years ago, Land Rover was a ponderous, sprawling business, stuck in the mire of overmanning and inefficiency and with two products — the ubiquitous Land Rover and its luxurious Range Rover stablemate — so long in the tooth that they were the Methuselahs of the motoring world.

Changes in the early 1980s were forced by the battle for survival waged by the then BL group. But companies defined by the DTI as "world class" go further than just surviving. They innovate continuously, says Dr Alistair Keddie at the DTI's innovations unit.

It would be too easy to say that Land Rover simply copied from Honda, the Japanese partner to Rover Cars, Land Rover's parent. It would also be too easy to say that similar action — such as ending demarcation lines and instituting Japanese-style working teams — are happening throughout the British motor industry.

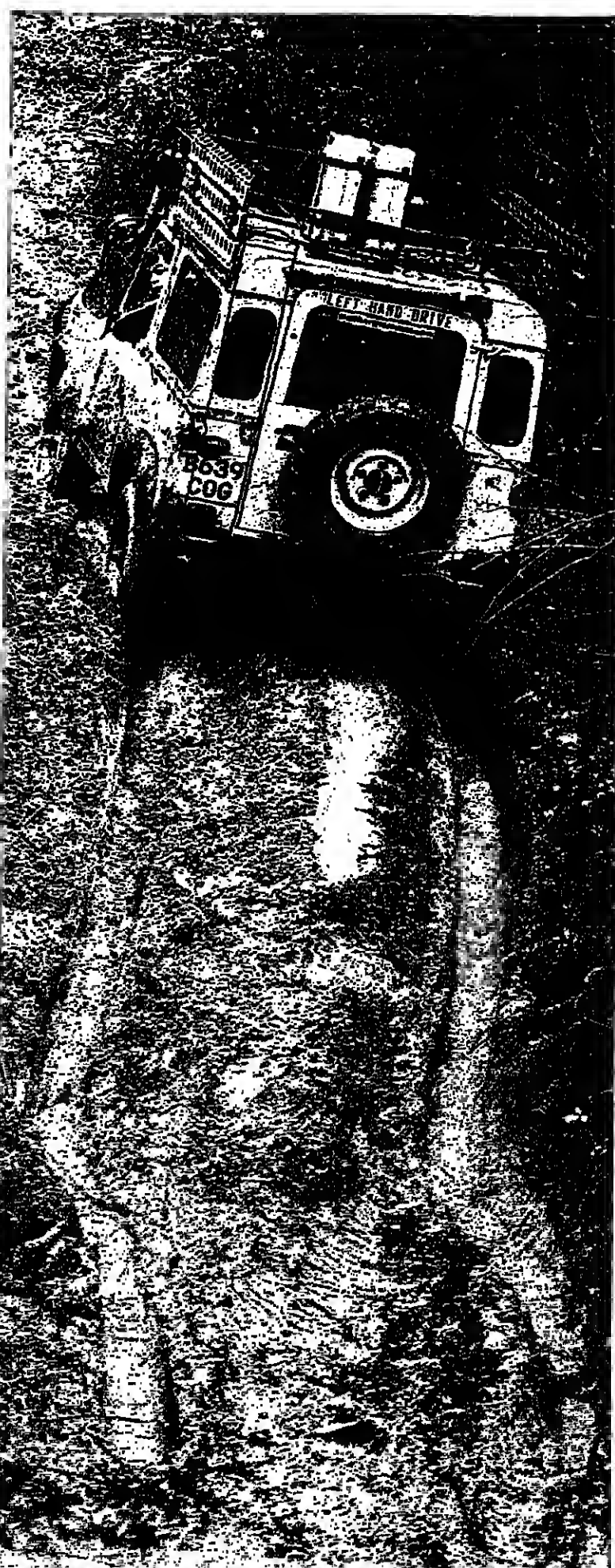
There has been no Honda involvement with Land Rover, a separate subsidiary, which stands on the original Rover assembly site at Solihull, in the West Midlands. The old wartime sheds where aero engines were tested during the second world war might still be there, but attitudes are radically new. The workers, used to being told to stand there and push this button, have been given their chance to make decisions, to have their own ideas and, more important, to carry them out.

The result is a vibrant workforce that would be envied by the Japanese. Productivity has shot up: it took 115.9 hours per man per year to make a Land Rover in 1991; today that figure is 86.4, an improvement of 28 per cent.

The advances are not simply due to better working practices but to the way that Land Rover's managers and workers have thrown themselves at the task of competing with the Japanese and beating them.

Suggestion schemes, for example, are, in most factories, the box into which workers drop their sweet papers. In 1988, 10 per cent of Land Rover workers took part in its scheme, but by last year participation was up to 309 per cent — the equivalent of an average three suggestions for each worker, leading to savings of £1.6 million for the business.

An independent report from the Employee Involvement Association of North Carolina rated the response at Land Rover the highest in the Western



Land Rover is scaling new heights due to continuous innovation

industrialised world, 30 times better than the 10 per cent average for British factories and 20 times better than America's 15 per cent.

The success led Land Rover to let workers off the leash to solve problems they spotted around the factory. One team wondered why leather gloves were thrown out at the end of each shift. Now gloves, along with overalls and aprons, are recycled and reused, saving £28,000 a year.

That same team is now advising other companies, from component makers to Cadbury, the chocolate

maker, on how best to involve their workers.

More than 200 of Land Rover's quality action teams, as they are known, have now completed assignments and saved £16 million a year. That startling statistic is convincing evidence of the revolution that has revitalised Land Rover, yet is so lacking in the vast bulk of British companies.

If further proof were needed, then the sceptics need to look only at the way Land Rover has soared in the last three years against a background of reces-

sion at home and abroad. At a time when the rest of the industry is losing sales, cutting production and sacking workers, Land Rover started 300 new recruits this week to increase production for the third time in a year.

From an assembly line output of 1,200 vehicles a week at the start of this year, the rate is now 1,830. Annual production totals are down from 1990's record of 68,600, but that is because in the past more vehicles were held in stock. Better assembly methods now mean that fewer cars are made but these are sent off to dealerships straightaway to be sold. Stocks have been cut from £23 million to £8.6 million in the past two years. At present rates, production could still hit nearly 80,000 vehicles in 1994.

Production is being driven by huge demand. Sales in the UK alone are up 32.9 per cent, with the 20,291 registrations logged in the first ten months already higher than the total for the whole of 1992.

Where showrooms on the Continent resemble motoring graveyards, Land Rover has gone on happily churning out its range of imposing four-wheel-drive vehicles in some of Europe's toughest markets.

In Spain, for example, where industry sales have already tumbled 25 per cent this year, Land Rover sales were up 3 per cent. In France, sales are up 1 per cent against the industry trend of a decrease of 17 per cent. But the most rapid growth is coming in Land Rover's newest markets in the Far East, Australia and, vitally, in the United States.

Australia is the centre of an explosion of interest in Land Rovers, with sales up 148 per cent to 2,947 vehicles this year. Japan is new territory, where the green and gold badge, so familiar across the world, is almost unknown. Japanese buyers are dedicated to their own brand names and are renowned for being very pernickety over the quality of build and reliability, which are not normally recognised as British virtues.

Land Rover is passing the test with this year's sales up 136% on last year's 500 vehicles. The potential for growth is enormous because of Rover's link with Honda.

Ten years ago, the idea that Honda could sell British-made cars in its domestic market would have had Japanese businessmen falling off their chairs giggling. But Honda is to market another Land Rover innovation, the Discovery, as its own in Japan. The car will be called the Honda Crossroads.

The Discovery has greatly helped the transformation of Land Rover's fortunes, becoming the most popular of the company's three models. It is regarded as the vehicle ideal for company directors or mums on the school run, as trendy down on the farm as it is in Knightsbridge.

The Discovery slotted neatly between the Defender, the modern descendant of the original Land Rover launched in 1948, and the Range Rover, the luxurious competitor for Jaguars, BMWs and Mercedes in the company-director market, and helped to see off Japanese competition.

It is big, stylish and comfortable — little like the utilitarian vehicle dreamed up by the Wilkes Brothers 45 years ago. They wanted a vehicle to compete with the American Jeep and came up with a slab-sided, four-wheel-drive box with no doors and a steering wheel in the centre of the dashboard.

They would barely recognise the trappings of the modern Land Rover Discovery, which is as radically different to the old 1948 vehicle as Concorde is to the Spitfire — but they would enjoy the revitalisation of one of the world's most famous motoring badges.

chairmen and chief executives of its blue chip clients at a breakfast seminar at the Savoy on December 1, the morning after the Budget. KPMG Peat Marwick, meanwhile, has persuaded Lord Lawson of Blaby, a former Chancellor, to address 200 distinguished guests at a dinner in Lincoln's Inn on Budget night itself. The itinerary for another former Chancellor, Norman Lamont, on the day is unclear.

SINCE hordes of readers have been turning up at Monument Station to sample the new Corney & Barrow bar, I feel obliged to point out that talk of its opening was premature. Construction began this week, and it opens in the new year.

Whatley service

MANY in the world of City journalism have been saddened by the untimely death of Garrod Whatley, former city editor of Thomson Regional Newspapers, who died last week after a long illness. A mentor to several established financial journalists who passed through his hands en route to Fleet Street, he spent many years as industrial editor of the Western Mail in

Words of wisdom

AS BUDGET Day looms, firms are falling over themselves to line up informed commentators on the event. Leading the stakes so far is Coopers & Lybrand, which has persuaded Michael Portillo, chief secretary to the Treasury, to address about 130



Dawn French plays Rita Scroggs in a John Cleese video

The politically correct Cleese

JOHN Cleese, the comedian and maker of business training films, has suddenly become politically correct and is offering himself at a discount to American corporations. Some of his training videos made in the late 1970s, in which white males take all the leading roles, have been re-shot using a more diverse group of people. Comedienne Dawn French, right, plays the new Rita Scroggs, a self-employed woman who teaches the snooty pin-striped Cleese character a thing or two about figures in *Balance Sheet Barrier*. Cleese is marketing the videos at a 15 per cent discount in America, where 23,000 corporations have used them in training since he opened a Chicago distribution office seven years ago. But none of this financial management preaching appears to have rubbed off on Cleese. He does not even write his own cheques.

Better shave

MANAGERS at the personal appliances division of Philips in Croydon, south-east

London, are looking forward to a Christmas pat-on-the-back, following the extraordinary success of the group's electric shavers, which have grabbed more than half the £50 million United Kingdom market for the first time. Figures from GFK Lektrak, the market research firm, show an astonishing sales surge during September, with Philips's share soaring to 55 per cent of the market by value compared with just under 50 per cent in the same five weeks last year. The losers are the Japanese, with Hitachi's share tumbling 25 per cent in the

five-week period to 9 per cent, and the Americans, with Remington down 28 per cent to just under 7 per cent. The Germans are holding their own, with Braun's market share holding steady at 22 per cent.

TEMPUS The china syndrome

THE demerger of Royal Doulton offers a revealing glimpse into the tax accounting machinations of a conglomerate. Exactly why Doulton owned the *Financial Post*, earlier this year, and how it then made a £1.9 million loss when it sold its involuntary investment to another Pearson subsidiary will remain a mystery except to those with access to Pearson's internal accounts. Such alchemy has left an embarrassing stain on Doulton's debut.

Investors may feel ungrateful about carping at such matters since unlike other recent demergers, Pearson is not trying the neat trick of selling investors something they already own. Instead, one Doulton share comes free with every ten of Pearson.

This is just as well: if investors were asked to put up real money for Royal Doulton shares they might question the ugly dynamics

of its industry. Fine china is one of the few luxury businesses that is volume driven. Companies run their kilns at full tilt to keep unit costs to a minimum, ensuring almost constant over-supply. This provides healthy trade for the reject shops but puts pressure on prices. Waterford Wedgwood's recent history is not the best advert for the industry.

The notional 6.6p dividend offers the greatest clue in the pricing of the shares once they start trading on December 2. Applying an average market yield of around 4 per cent values them at 206p. Given the low level of profitability however, the warning of continued difficult trading in some markets and the question over quality of earnings, Doulton will do well to close higher than 200p on its first day. Perhaps after all you should never look a Christmas gift in the balance sheet.

VSEL

IMPRESSIVE though recent achievements have been at VSEL, the stark reality of the government's spending constraints suggest that the company urgently needs to reinvent itself.

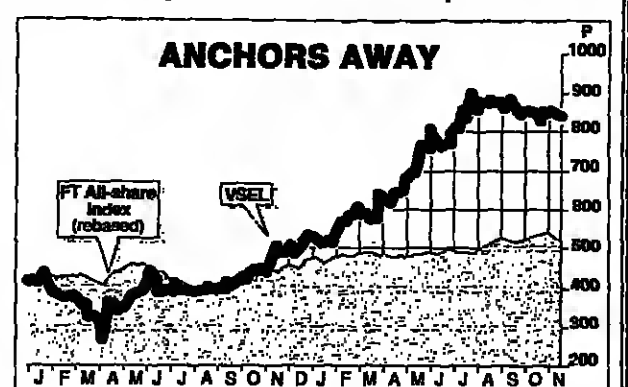
Successive rounds of job cuts and cost reduction have improved VSEL's profitability and cash flow beyond measure. In September, the company launched the first two Trident submarines under budget and it has enough naval and military contracts in hand to drive profits well into the middle of the decade.

VSEL is naturally confident that it can win a fair share of future contracts, including the new generation frigate and replacement assault ships. But VSEL is still competing in a shrinking market, as the government's

decision to sell the new Upholder class submarines proves. Unless a major conflict forces the government to reappraise our naval forces, it must look elsewhere for long-term growth.

Fortunately, tight cash management has given VSEL the funds to diversify. Short-term deposits rose to £270 million by the end of

September. It will probably mount a consortium bid for the Devonport dockyard when the government puts it up for sale, but this will only increase its reliance on government defence spending. Until VSEL finds a destiny and a source of higher-quality earnings, the shares, even on a p/e ratio of only 8, are not cheap.



Burton

THE recovery potential at Burton is tantalising. The group makes operating profits of just £61 million on sales of almost £2 billion. There must be ample scope for improvement on margins of 3 per cent even in today's difficult retail environment.

The group is unlikely to achieve the 14 per cent margins it made in its heyday, but 8-10 per cent must be within its grasp. John Hoerner and his team have already proved their mettle at Debenhams which is now making margins of about 7 per cent. The high street fashion stores should be able to beat that.

Burton really should be making profits of £150 million. It is not inconceivable that it will: the question is when. As with most retail recovery stories from Storehouse to Next, the market always underestimates how long the process will take.

The difficult task for Burton is breaking the pattern of sacrificing margins to improve sales. The group seems to be making some progress. Although gross margins fell

by another 1.2 percentage points last year, much of the fall came from lower mark-ups rather than mark-downs, which suggests it is beginning to get its opening price points right.

Nevertheless the group needs to trade through this year without further margin erosion to prove it has finally convinced consumers to pay full price at its stores.

Shell

SHELL has long made a virtue of its decentralised management and penchant for collective decision-making. Few would deny that the system has helped to keep Shell in profits while companies with a more top-down structure have run into trouble. But this structure has meant that Shell has gradually chipped away at its non-core businesses while peers such as BP and Chevron have already completed the bulk of their restructuring.

Decentralised decision-making means staff cuts to made by initiatives at local level in Shell's 100-plus operating companies, rather than by edicts from London or The

Hague. Shell, like its peers, needs to reduce capacity in commodity chemicals which have been a running sore for years, but progress is slow. Both the American Shell Oil and Shell UK have taken out costs but continental operations have wielded the axe less vigorously.

Ruberoid

TARMAC's eagerness to complete its disposal programme and the bad publicity handed out to companies that are flogging off their unwanted businesses to investors have turned the Ruberoid float into a bargain sale. The 15p issue price puts the shares on a p/e ratio of 14 on the current year forecast, while most of building materials and contracting companies are trading on multiples of 20 or more.

There is also a generous 4.5 per cent yield. At this price the offer is one of the most attractive in months, and the shares should go to a decent first day premium. Tarmac will suffer some dilution as well as heavy goodwill write-offs — but that is the price for a solid balance sheet.

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THE TIMES CITY DIARY



Dawn French plays Rita Scroggs in a John Cleese video

JOHN Cleese, the comedian and maker of business training films, has suddenly become politically correct and is offering himself at a discount to American corporations. Some of his training videos made in the late 1970s, in which white males take all the leading roles, have been re-shot using a more diverse group of people. Comedienne Dawn French, right, plays the new Rita Scroggs, a self-employed woman who teaches the snooty pin-striped Cleese character a thing or two about figures in *Balance Sheet Barrier*. Cleese is marketing the videos at a 15 per cent discount in America, where 23,000 corporations have used them in training since he opened a Chicago distribution office seven years ago. But none of this financial management preaching appears to have rubbed off on Cleese. He does not even write his own cheques.

Better shave

MANAGERS at the personal appliances division of Philips in Croydon, south-east

London, are looking forward to a Christmas pat-on-the-back, following the extraordinary success of the group's electric shavers, which have grabbed more than half the £50 million United Kingdom market for the first time. Figures from GFK Lektrak, the market research firm, show an astonishing sales surge during September, with Philips's share soaring to 55 per cent of the market by value compared with just under 50 per cent in the same five weeks last year. The losers are the Japanese, with Hitachi's share tumbling 25 per cent in the

five-week period to 9 per cent, and the Americans, with Remington down 28 per cent to just under 7 per cent. The Germans are holding their own, with Braun's market share holding steady at 22 per cent.

Words of wisdom

AS BUDGET Day looms, firms are falling over themselves to line up informed commentators on the event. Leading the stakes so far is Coopers & Lybrand, which has persuaded Michael Portillo, chief secretary to the Treasury, to address about 130

chairmen and chief executives of its blue chip clients at a breakfast seminar at the Savoy on December 1, the morning after the Budget. KPMG Peat Marwick, meanwhile, has persuaded Lord Lawson of Blaby, a former Chancellor, to address 200 distinguished guests at a dinner in Lincoln's Inn on Budget night itself. The itinerary for another former Chancellor, Norman Lamont, on the day is unclear.

SINCE hordes of readers have been turning up at Monument Station to sample the new Corney & Barrow bar, I feel obliged to point out that talk of its opening was premature. Construction began this week, and it opens in the new year.

Whatley service

MANY in the world of City journalism have been saddened by the untimely death of Garrod Whatley, former city editor of Thomson Regional Newspapers, who died last week after a long illness. A mentor to several established financial journalists who passed through his hands en route to Fleet Street, he spent many years as industrial editor of the Western Mail in

Cardiff before going out to the Gulf in the early 1980s to work on a business magazine. He returned to join Thomson after a three-year spell. Born in Newport, Gwent, he leaves his wife, Beth Cunningham, who writes for *TV Times*. A thanksgiving ceremony will be held in Stepney, east London, on December 5. Any donations should be sent to the Cancer Relief Macmillan Fund.

Dressed to thrill

A SERIES of posters have begun appearing in City public houses, cafes and restaurants, advertising a party to be given next week by Ann Summers, queen of exotic lingerie, in the salubrious surroundings of Coates restaurant on London Wall. Tuesday evening's bash promises novelties, games, a raffle, prizes... and lingerie. City gents are not invited.

A STUDENT in Sydney, Australia, has received a letter from her bank giving her permission to extend her overdraft. At the bottom, the letter says: "May we remind you that this is a limit and not a target."

JON ASHWORTH

THE TIMES UNIT TRUST INFORMATION SERVICE

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Solve the problems before they happen

Harry S Truman, the 33rd president of the United States, famously decorated the presidential desk with a sign that read: "The buck stops here." His taste for pithy comment also included the assertion: "If you can't stand the heat, get out of the kitchen."

Senior managers of information technology are likely to find the buck increasingly heading in their direction as the extent of their organisations' dependence on successful IT operations grows. For the sake of their careers, it is time these IT managers and project leaders started to look for a way of sharing the heat.

"People are losing their jobs left, right and centre because they foul up or because a project goes wrong," says John Lane, a principal consultant in Hoskyns' project systems division.

"It is not going too far to talk about sackings or people being moved sideways or otherwise earmarked as scapegoats. It is difficult to sack people, but not to move them sideways and then ease them out gradually."

Among specialists in information technology, projects that are completed on time and within budget are acknowledged rarities. Although the level of skill and

As more companies come to rely on computers, so it is vital to spot the risks in advance.

David Guest writes

experience of specialists continues to grow, they face two problems: IT has become so central to many companies that the health of an organisation might depend critically on the success of a project while at the same time, the complexity of computer systems, and especially communications technology, continues to grow at a relentless pace.

In the same way that the level of computer fraud is difficult to judge because organisations are reluctant to reveal their systems as insecure by reporting breaches, the number of failed projects is unknown. "Every organisation has disasters in-house that they do not own up to," says Mr Lane.

The most visible disasters tend to come in the public sector, where it seems whistles are more likely to be blown, or from failures of enormous proportions. Recent examples include the very public cases at the London Ambulance Service and Wessex Regional Health Authority, and the failure of the Stock Exchange Taurus project, which will have had many IT specialists thinking that there but for the grace of God.

In the Wessex case, IT director Rosemary Storrs chose to leave the computer technology field altogether as a result. Earlier this year she said she planned to return to law, the subject in which she originally graduated.

But a parliamentary inquiry into the Wessex affair found that Ms Storrs was one of the few people to emerge with any credit from its investigations. Mr Lane says that a manager's competence is not always his or her most reliable defence against the failure of a project.

"People can inherit problem projects," he says, "or the corporate culture might be one in which executives say 'we know what the risks are' without wondering why those risks arise."

He adds that the computer industry has made an unwitting contribution to the problem with its provision for greater efficiency from IT specialists. "When companies introduce methodologies or



The London Ambulance Service has returned to manual control after its computer system failed

computer-assisted software engineering tools, they could be just a means of making the mistakes quicker."

Most companies that take any action on monitoring and manag-

ing the risk of failure in IT projects do so in the wrong way, he claims. "Organisations either do it and then don't use the results or too often they will perform a kind of risk assessment up-front and not

repeat it, despite the fact that circumstances change as a project develops.

"Project managers get a gut feeling that something isn't right, but if they can't put their finger on

what it is, they aren't going to be able to convince others and get anything done about it."

To help managers identify developing problems, the computer industry supplies programs aimed at risk management. Hoskyns has Project Risk, a program that runs on personal computers. Other suppliers include risk management as an element of project management packaged programs.

The main purpose of using a computer system to monitor risks and prompt counter-measures is to bring all the relevant factors out into the open.

Responsibility that might otherwise have been laid solely at the door of the information technology manager or project manager can then be seen either to be a shared one or to have derived from elsewhere—a board decision about deadlines, for example.

Risk management software is designed to reduce the risk of failure in projects. There is no reason, though, why project managers should not use it to guard their backs.

Bucks can sometimes be legitimately passed, and heat can be dissipated by being shared. If IT managers can't stand the heat, they should perhaps look for a way of turning it down.

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INFOTECH

Rabbit's £100m write-off

There was a lot of "I told you so" going on among telecommunications people this week after Hutchison Whampoa, Hong Kong, announced that it will axe its Rabbit telepoint service at the end of next month.

Experience might have taught that the concept of telepoint in Britain — a mobile phone that cannot receive incoming calls and requires users to be within 200 yards of a base station to make outgoing ones — is flawed.

Rabbit's attraction was that it was much cheaper than a standard mobile phone; as new competition forced down the price of mobile services, this advantage was quickly eroded.

Three other telepoint services — Callpoint, Phonepoint and Zonophone — had been tried in Britain. But within two years, all were shut down, having lost the support of companies behind them, which included BT and Mercury, and a total of £90 million.

Hence the industry analysts and observers were astonished when, despite these failures, Hutchison Telecom decided to try telepoint again in July last year.

But even the more sceptical were surprised both by the amount the ill-fated venture cost Hutchison, around £100 million, and the small number of subscribers it had attracted — 9,000 compared to a modest target of 60,000, less than one user per base station.

Other mobile phone companies, however, do not see the failure of Rabbit as a warning, arguing that its limitations never really made it a competitor.

Mercury One 2 One, the company which two months ago started a new service within an area

The decision to end Hutchison's telepoint service seemed inevitable, says Matthew May

bounded by the M25, is keeping the number of its subscribers a closely kept secret but claims it is well ahead of target. Similarly, Cellnet and Vodafone, both reported a record net number of new subscribers signing up last month — each gained more than 20,000.

Any problem for these companies is less likely to be with attracting an adequate number of subscribers but continuing to make enough money out of them, as competition forces prices down.

Peter Purton, the editorial director of the specialist publishers, Telecom Europe, says: "Rabbit proves that a licence to run a mobile phone network is no longer a licence to print money."

One of the differences from previous telepoint services was that some Rabbit phones could be used as a high-quality cordless phone at home as well as a mobile when near a base station. The cost, however, was £200.

"Rabbit did not fail for the want of trying," Mr Purton says. "Huge amounts of money were spent on the technology and for call quality it was very good."

"But Hutchison was giving out a confusing message to customers as it was trying to push the idea of a cheap mobile phone network and

at the same time this idea of a hybrid cordless phone.

"The lesson for other operators must be that making the message clear can make all the difference. This is especially true of the complicated pricing for these services at the moment. Where those who are only marginally interested get confused, they just won't bother."

Telepoint is working in some countries, however, particularly in Hong Kong where Hutchison says its Tien Dey Seen telepoint network has more than 70,000 subscribers after one and half years of operation — only slightly longer than Rabbit. Its success has been ascribed to the density of the population — relatively few base stations provide a wide degree of coverage within the colony.

All of the three telepoint operators in Hong Kong also offer a simulated way for subscribers to receive incoming calls using pagers. Calls to a telepoint phone activate a pager and if subscribers are within range of a base station they can connect with the caller by pressing one button on the phone.

Possibly of more relevance to Britain is that a Parisian telepoint service, Le Bipop, has signed up more than 20,000 people since its launch six months ago. It has been promoted as a fashion item, works on the Metro and has the backing of France Telecom. It has been testing a simulated two-way service.

Rabbit had also been testing a pager-based two-way service in London, which was due for launch next year. Whether this sort of improved telepoint service could ever work here will be known only if any other company is prepared to take a £100 million gamble.



End of the line for Rabbit telepoint users, despite a £100m investment

ONLINE

Robots see the lights

ROBOTS may soon be able to see with their own "eyes", at least as well as bees do, and move around without the need for large, costly computers.

Scientists at the University of Adelaide and Canberra's Australian National University say they have developed a retina chip which mimics many aspects of insect vision and can be installed for 10 per cent of the cost of existing systems. The retina chip paves the way for mobile robots, from vacuum cleaners to those working in nuclear reactors.

New boundaries

THE end of Cocom, the international body which for more than four decades policed the export of sensitive technology, is likely to be announced within a few weeks.

It will be replaced with an organisation which could include among its members Russia, thus re-drawing the map of banned destinations for high technology. Last week Cocom members — all 16 NATO countries except Iceland, plus Australia and Japan — met in Norway to discuss the new controls on exports of militarily-useful technology.

Jaguar drive

NEXT month Atari, inventor of the first video game, is to start selling a powerful games machine in the United States called Jaguar, aimed at grabbing market share from the

Japanese who dominate video games. The machines will retail for £170, including one game cartridge, and process 100 times as much screen data at one time as the 16-bit games machines, and twice as much as a new generation of 32-bit machines.

Early next year Atari will sell a £135 add-on device that will play audio compact discs and CD-based games. The machine is set for European launch in the spring.

Air gamble

NORTHWEST Airlines has asked the United States Congress to allow gambling on international routes so it can compete with the casino games of Virgin Atlantic and Singapore Airlines. Gambling could be added to an interactive video system that Northwest has installed on six of its planes. Passengers would activate the games with cards purchased at the gate or from flight attendants, and redeem their winnings on arrival.

Heart beats

PHYSICIANS in Atlanta are working with the first holograms of the living human heart, giving them the chance to explore the three-dimensional images inside and out. The life-sized image hovers, with vessels and valves, in front of a computer screen, and can be "pierced" with a viewer's hand.

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THE world's biggest computer company is changing the way it designs its biggest computers. IBM has announced plans to build mainframe computers and other large systems around dozens or hundreds of the small chips powering personal computers.

IBM in switch

IBM is not abandoning traditional mainframe design, which is based on one or a few large processor chips. The parallel design will be incorporated by 1996 in its important System 390 large computers.

On Tuesday, the company demonstrated prototypes of parallel-based machines that handle specific tasks. Other makers of big computers have

started selling machines based on the smaller chips.

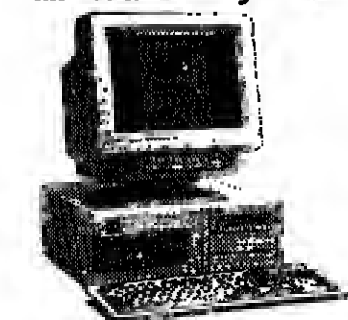
IBM's move, expected for several months, is a sign that the company, which has lost billions and undergone a huge restructuring chiefly because of slower mainframe sales, is adjusting to a changed market.

Critics say IBM should have moved to a new mainframe design faster. But others note that it faced a huge challenge to ensure that software running on a different design would work with existing programs and data in which large customers have invested heavily.



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Spiralling costs have forced companies to engage specialist help, says Pat Sweet

Outsider cuts the hassle

Faced with spiralling computing costs, the difficulties of finding specialist staff and the prospect of being left with outmoded technology, many companies are choosing to hand their information technology problems on to someone else.

A survey by the research organisation Input estimates that the British market for IT outsourcing and facilities management — where some or all of a company's internal computer or telecommunication operations are run by a third party — will grow by 23 per cent a year between now and 1998.

"Companies are much more interested in measuring what IT delivers to the business and how well it supports strategic objectives," says Trevor Clarke, chairman of PCL, which specialises in handling data capture requirements for companies such as the Prudential. "If the actual technology can be provided more cost-effectively by someone else, then fair enough."

This was the case at Quest International, a Unilever subsidiary which is the second largest perfume producer in the world. Eighteen months ago demands for 24-hour operations, a move to open systems and the need to improve disaster-recovery arrangements led to the company signing an outsourcing management contract with Data Sciences.

"Since they are now running the mainframe, that's left me free to focus entirely on the new open systems development," says Richard Loader, Quest's systems development manager. "The facilities management deal has created the time and space to think through the things we really should be spending effort on as a company."

Suppliers agree that as more companies turn to outsourcing, their demands in-

crease. "We are no longer required simply to manage the status quo. Today, the expectation is that services will improve and costs will reduce," says Peter Falconer, senior manager at Hoskyns whose outsourcing clients include Hoover and Woolworths.

Five years ago, most companies saw a outsourcing contract as the solution to a specific problem, such as changing computer architecture or moving location. The supplier ran the old systems while the customer's staff went on to the new. Now companies are looking for longer-term partnerships with suppliers who will tackle a much wider range of activities, including maintenance of newly-developed software applications.

"The move to 'downsizing', with companies often swapping mainframes and mini-computers for a network of personal computers, has produced outsourcing opportunities for suppliers who can handle desktop services. This covers everything from checking that PC software is licensed to working out the best approach to networking PCs."

Tom Butler is managing director of EDS-Scion, the company which pioneered the outsourcing concept in America 25 years ago. He challenges the traditional idea of facilities management as primarily a means of converting a variable cost with unknown risks into a fixed-price contract where the supplier can achieve economies of scale.

"Outsourcing now is much more about how to manage information services as a whole. We are just starting to see companies enter into much more creative partnerships where they are leasing out very good service arrangements for themselves," Mr Butler says.

One such example is the London Stock Exchange



Scent of success for Richard Loader now the mainframe is run by a contractor

which is 18 months into a five-year deal with Andersen Consulting designed to allow it to switch to a new generation of applications funded by the savings made from outsourcing the existing systems.

"When we started we were spending £50 million a year on our computer operations and costs were rising rapidly," says Jane Barker, the Stock Exchange's chief operations officer. "We also needed to replace the systems put in at the time of Big Bang, which had been added to and altered and were expensive to maintain."

"We've gone for a co-

sourcing venture where we both share the risk. Because we are not paying a risk premium, as we would in a conventional FM deal, we can take all the savings."

Commercial companies' enthusiasm for outsourcing is now being matched by the public sector in the push to market testing of services among local authorities and government departments. Westminster Council, for instance, has signed a £38 million, seven-year contract with ITnet to manage and support its computer services. It estimates it will save £1 million by doing so.

Later this month the Inland Revenue is expected to announce that the management of some of its data centres and processing activities will be outsourced.

As the opportunities for outsourcing grow, so do the numbers of suppliers.

Patrick Whale is senior IT partner with KMPG Management Consulting, which advises companies on the pros and cons of this approach. He says: "It's a very turbulent market. Everyone is jumping in, which has led to oversupply. Not all the current suppliers are going to survive."

The changes that make staff uneasy

Employees are nervous about being bought and sold. But often that is how they view outsourcing

One of the biggest obstacles to outsourcing can be persuading staff to make the move from the devil they know to the devil they don't.

People can take the attitude that they are being bought and sold. They are therefore likely to be apprehensive about the security of their salaries and privileges.

After all, the object of the exercise is to make economies, and staff will fear that terms and conditions of employment will be the first target of their new employers.

At first, people taken on by the outsourcing contractor are protected by the TUPE regulations — Transfer of Undertakings (Protection of Employees). These rules, part of a European directive, were recently enshrined in the Trade Union Reform Act.

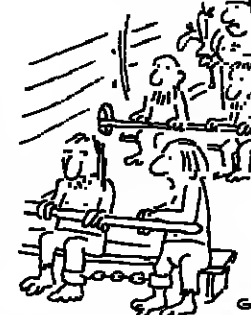
John O'Sullivan of Computer People, an information technology recruitment consultancy, says the effect of the regulations is that in any such move, out-sourced staff will have nothing to lose.

"The effect can be either to remain the same or be beneficial," he says, "although you are never sure whether in the medium or longer term the new employer will want to reduce numbers. But the main effect is a psychological one — it is a big upset suddenly finding yourself working for someone else, albeit in the same role. People who do not want to go to the new employer do come to us, but I have not come across anyone who made the jump then regretted it."

The downside is that the things that are outsourced tend to be the least exciting, such as maintenance, so an individual could be left with the "rotten jobs". Mr O'Sullivan therefore advises companies against going too far and outsourcing any functions that are too close to a company's core business.

"We are now starting to see the implications of outsourcing critical areas such as development," he says. "It

I don't regret being outsourced



is difficult, for example to put a value on a team of programmers who rescue programs that suddenly fail."

According to Andrew Warren, who is responsible for outsourcing at Hoskyns, a computer services company, the main difficulty in absorbing staff is allowing for terms and conditions that are usual in the sector from

oppose outsourcing on principle, seeing it as a way to axe jobs, cut benefits and to reduce the salaries of those that are left.

John Townsend, an official of the Banking, Insurance and Finance Union (Bif), works at the TSB, which has outsourced four of its computer and communications systems, including the network that links the bank with its subsidiaries. This was outsourced to Mercury Communications last year. Computer maintenance went to Computacenter.

He says: "The legislation states that staff move to the new company on exactly the same conditions, but unfortunately it does not say for how long the conditions must be maintained, and this has not been tested."

Although none of the TSB outsourcing deals seem to have resulted in job losses or draconian pay cuts as yet, Mr Townsend fears that the staff that used to be able to call on his union are now on their own.

He says: "The people are moving from a unionised to a non-unionised environment, so their position is weaker."

Bif cannot even keep the outsourced staff as members, because they are moving

out of banking and technically into other areas — in the case of the people transferred to Mercury, to telecommunications. All Mr Townsend was able to do was to recommend that they join the National Communications Union, which is struggling to gain recognition at Mercury.

Despite the fears of job losses and loss of members, Mr Townsend says the union takes a pragmatic attitude. "Although we are not in favour, and would prefer jobs to be kept in-house when we consider that opposing outsourcing would not be successful, we try to get the best terms we can for our members."

CHRIS PARTRIDGE

Despite fears of job losses, the union has to take a pragmatic attitude

which they came but which are not standard in the computer services industry.

"If you are looking at the public sector, for example," Mr Warren says, "the terms and conditions are very different from what we would expect in the computer services business."

Mr Warren emphasises the need for dealing with every individual as a separate case, including counselling on the move. For example, to protect pension rights, someone near retirement may need to be seconded rather than have his employment transferred.

Mr Warren says that more than 90 per cent of the staff at operations taken over by Hoskyns have moved with their jobs. Unions usually

Incentives to succeed

Getting the most from outsourcing takes careful planning, but can be rewarding

They all say they can do it. But it may only be a handful that match your expectations. Choosing an outsourcing company is not easy.

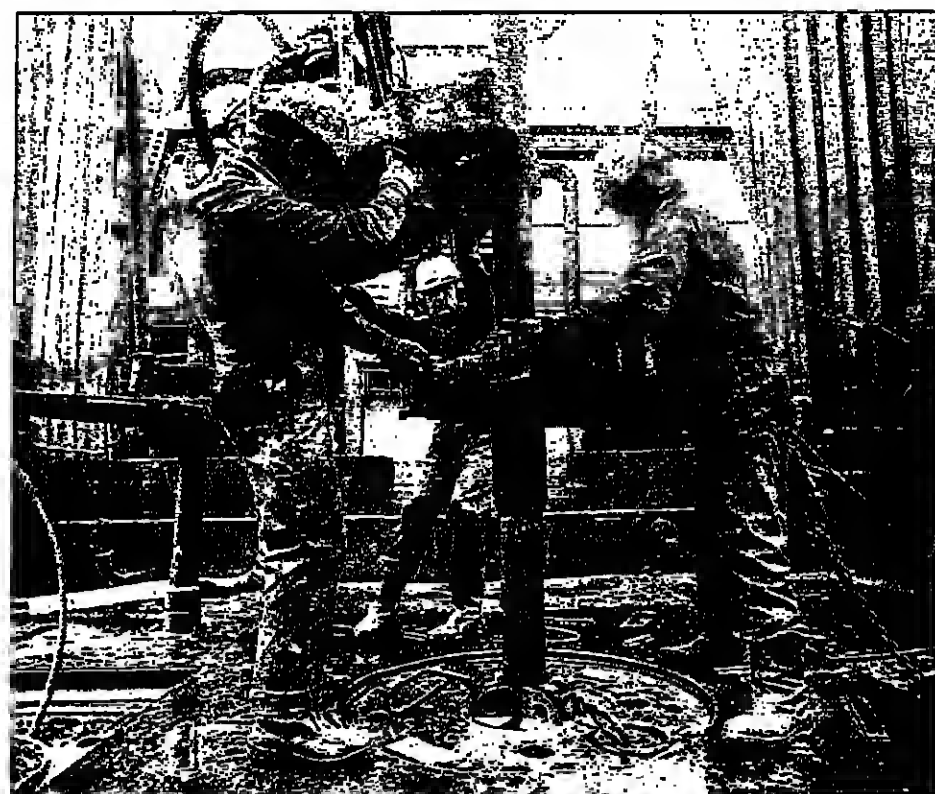
Every leading company in the computer industry, and on its periphery, now supplies outsourcing. The hardware manufacturers have all increased their efforts to gain a share of the outsourcing market now that revenues from traditional sales have fallen. Large software houses are also involved in this lucrative trade, as are management consultants.

An outsourcing company's track record might look good; most suppliers will claim a lifetime of outsourcing know-how. Yet in a report to be published in February by Business Intelligence, the research and conference company, nearly one-third of the 100 organisations interviewed were less than satisfied with some or all of their outsourcing contracts.

The rewards of successful outsourcing, however, can be huge. The principle reason for outsourcing is financial. You can better control, and possibly reduce, your spending on computing through outsourcing. Economic conditions are generating pressure to reduce staff numbers: outsourcing can be one way of doing this.

It is true that if a computer department is using too many staff, or the wrong tools, then an outsourcing provider may be able to cut costs. It is also true, however, that there will be limited scope for improvement if the same department is already being run efficiently. The in-house operation will also have a considerably better knowledge of the business than any outside supplier, making a convincing argument against outsourcing.

However, when the Co-operative Wholesale Society (CWS) contacted outsourcing



Drilling deep for maximum profits, oil companies like BP are turning to outsourcing

companies, they estimated that the distribution and warehousing business could save between 20 and 25 per cent of its annual IT costs by outsourcing the running of its Salford data centre.

Having already gone through a series of cost-cutting exercises of its own, CWS turned to these outsourcing companies which had responded to an invitation to tender.

"We showed them where we'd be at the end of '92 and asked them how much it would cost them to run the business in 1993 against our own projected estimates," says Stan Seales, then CWS computer services manager.

After a five-month evaluation period, the CWS eventually outsourced its computer operations, service control and technical services to CFM, which relieved the CWS of an 18-year lease on its premises and raised cash for the assets within its buildings.

"We had no more fixed computing costs to worry about. Everything became variable. There were also better staff prospects for the 72 people, including myself," says Mr Seales, who is now

CFM's technical services manager.

The second reason for outsourcing coincides with a trend towards focusing on core businesses. Some companies are going further than outsourcing the computer system and are outsourcing entire business functions.

Oil companies, like other large organisations, stand to gain much from this approach. The BP group has just outsourced its "non-core" IT activities to the Sema Group in a deal thought to be worth about £40 million over five years. Sema is taking responsibility for the complete range of BP's technology services, other than networking. This involves BP Exploration and Production and BP Corporate IT operations in Stockley Park and London.

The IBM and Digital Equipment computer facilities which were previously operated by BP in Glasgow and Harlow have been relocated into Sema Group's existing computer centres in Hemel Hempstead and Glasgow.

However, BP has also turned to two other outsourcing companies.

Syncordia, BT's network outsourcing subsidiary, is to manage the delivery of voice data, video and messaging services to the BP sites. And Science Applications International, a San Diego company with a large UK operation, will provide IT services to BP's Aberdeen centre.

"Historically, the fragmentation involved with subcontracting had not brought us the benefits we'd wanted," says George Fish, managing consultant in the IT Department at BP Exploration and Production. "There would inevitably be cracks between packages of work, which meant the day-to-day management became very time-consuming."

BP keeps the outsourcing companies — each well-known for its particular area of expertise — on their toes with a risk/reward arrangement, performance targets geared to quality and cost of the service being provided to BP.

"They have been given a powerful incentive to satisfy BP's requirements. We didn't want an adversarial relationship," says Mr Fish.

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Since they first appeared on the earth, only fifty years ago, computers have achieved a lot. They can now build cars, track down criminals and even launch unmanned space probes.

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Mapping out the future

David Hewson charts the sometimes difficult route to outsourcing taken by the Ordnance Survey

JAMES CHEADLE



Bryan Nanson's staff found tendering for OS's computer services 'a very trying time'

From the beginning of next year, the business information networks behind the day-to-day operations of Ordnance Survey will reside on another company's mainframe computer, halfway across the country from the organisation's Southampton base.

Staff using the system will notice no difference, but the data will come to them through a landline link instead of over an in-house network. And the bills the system incurs are about to be drastically reduced.

Ordnance Survey, or OS, intends to make "substantial" savings on its IT costs through handing over its business information system to a mainframe computer operated by CFM, the ICL subsidiary in Warwick.

It is only the third government organisation to elect for outsourcing, after the defence ministry, which has outsourced a payroll centre, and the export credit guarantees department.

The move was decided after a year-long market testing exercise on its computer services operations. These cover fairly conventional business information systems, but also a sophisticated mapping database of the United Kingdom, which OS uses as the base for its chart products.

Ordnance Survey is a world leader in charting technology and can now print custom maps for clients whenever they are needed, using the geographical databases and customised client information.

At the end of the test, an in-house team won the bid to retain all the organisation's Unix-based systems with the remaining services being outsourced.

Bryan Nanson, the head of information and computer services for OS — and chairman of the market-testing project team which decided on the changes — says that though the exercise has proved cost effective and a good management discipline for the organisation, it has taken its toll on staff morale. Most of the 18-strong in-house information technology team will remain to work on the services retained in-house, though some will move to other jobs.

"It has been a very trying time for people in the team," Mr Nanson says. "In a way, I think they felt I let them down by going for market testing. But it was our brief to reduce the cost of our computer operations while maintaining their quality."

As part of the market testing project, the internal IT team and outside competitors both tendered for the various parts

of the system, with no favours shown to the in-house staff.

"The first thing we had to do was put up a Chinese wall, although sometimes it seemed more like the Berlin Wall," Mr Nanson says. "It was a gladiatorial exercise, which is what procurement is all about really. We really did treat the external contractor. In the end, we discovered that a hybrid

solution was the one which had the greatest impact on our running costs."

The outsourcing exercise had some unexpected bonuses. In order to invite tenders for the different parts of its operations, exact definitions of roles and structures which had previously been left vague had to be defined.

"When you have a friendly in-house IT team around the

corner it is easy to get things done informally and take them for granted. You can't have that if you are asking people to tender for you. We found that procedures had not been as well-defined as they should have been and we had to work on defining them, which was no bad thing in itself."

Some of the work done in determining the contracts will now be used in a bid to achieve BS 5750 status, the coveted management quality award which, in part, depends upon well-defined internal managerial systems.

How much money the organisation will save by moving to outsourcing is something Mr Nanson is unwilling to reveal, though the scale of the contract, which industry sources say is worth around £1 million and will run from three to five years, gives some indication of the level of spending involved.

The brief of the project had been to find substantial savings while maintaining — not improving — levels of service to both internal and external customers.

Ordnance Survey has recently been reorganised into business units with a tough inter-departmental pricing policy under which units are charged for work done by other parts of the organisation, including computer services.

Over the past few years it has reduced the size of its information technology department and there was little scope left for cutting it back further without cutting services, Mr Nanson says.

CFM can run the organisation's systems more cheaply for the simple reason that it can run the networks of several different companies on one system, making more efficient use of what is an expensive proprietary operating system.

One other benefit will appear in the small ads of the computer trade press shortly: a "For Sale" ad from Ordnance Survey for one redundant mainframe computer which Mr Nanson will be delighted to see gone from his department.

Property rights and fees have become an issue

Sellers' dilemma

The growth of the facilities management and outsourcing market has presented something of a dilemma to the users and sellers of software.

The two key issues are: who owns the intellectual property rights to software developed by the contractor for the customer, and who is responsible for paying the licence fee for the software used on the system?

The first problem is likely to be exacerbated with the advent of object-oriented programming. Object orientation is the latest in a series of attempts by the software business to create a method of writing programs which allow a user to reuse code to rewrite other programs.

Object programs are modular and highly reusable. Stored in an object library components of a program can be used to build other programs. Although object programming is still in its infancy the question of software copyright is already a concern.

Historically the industry started with the view that software developed for the client belonged to the client, but it has become more entrepreneurial since those days. "The legal position is extremely clear: the author of the software owns the copyright. However that is not the way it ought to be," says Bob Aylott, principal consultant with KMPG management consultants.

During the lifetime of an outsourcing contract routine maintenance and enhancements to the software may be carried out by the supplier on behalf of the customer, which raises yet another issue, according to Mr Aylott.

The original software may have been developed by the customer's staff before the contract was signed but the outsourcing supplier may well make changes for maintenance and upgrades.

"Strictly speaking, the customer is only entitled to get his software back in its original form when the contract ends, although in practice this seldom happens," Mr Aylott says.

The possible insolvency of an outsourcing supplier could also cause problems for a customer. While it is always possible for the customer to find another machine on which to run his applications, the software can present a problem.

If the code for a customer-specific application is held solely by the outsourcing supplier and the company

terminates the contract, the customer is left with a problem. Unlike PC-based software packages, which are generally purchased outright, the majority of mainframe and mid-range computer software is licensed on a monthly basis from the supplier. The problems arise when a licence granted to a customer is transferred to a third party outsourcing company.

The software is generally licensed to a specific company. Once that company decides to use an outsourcing supplier then there is nothing to stop the authors and developers of the software from claiming that the licence no longer applies and a new one must be negotiated, usually with increased charges.

No software house can afford to grant a blanket licence to a facilities management company because there would be nothing to prevent it from using and reusing the software for a whole range of its customers not covered in the original licence.

Utility software, for example programs written to speed up a particular part of the processing, is easily transferable between applications run on behalf of customers but on the same machine.

The issue is usually resolved by the software developers coming to a separate agreement with a facilities management company to licence the software on the condition that it is used by them only for specifically agreed customers.

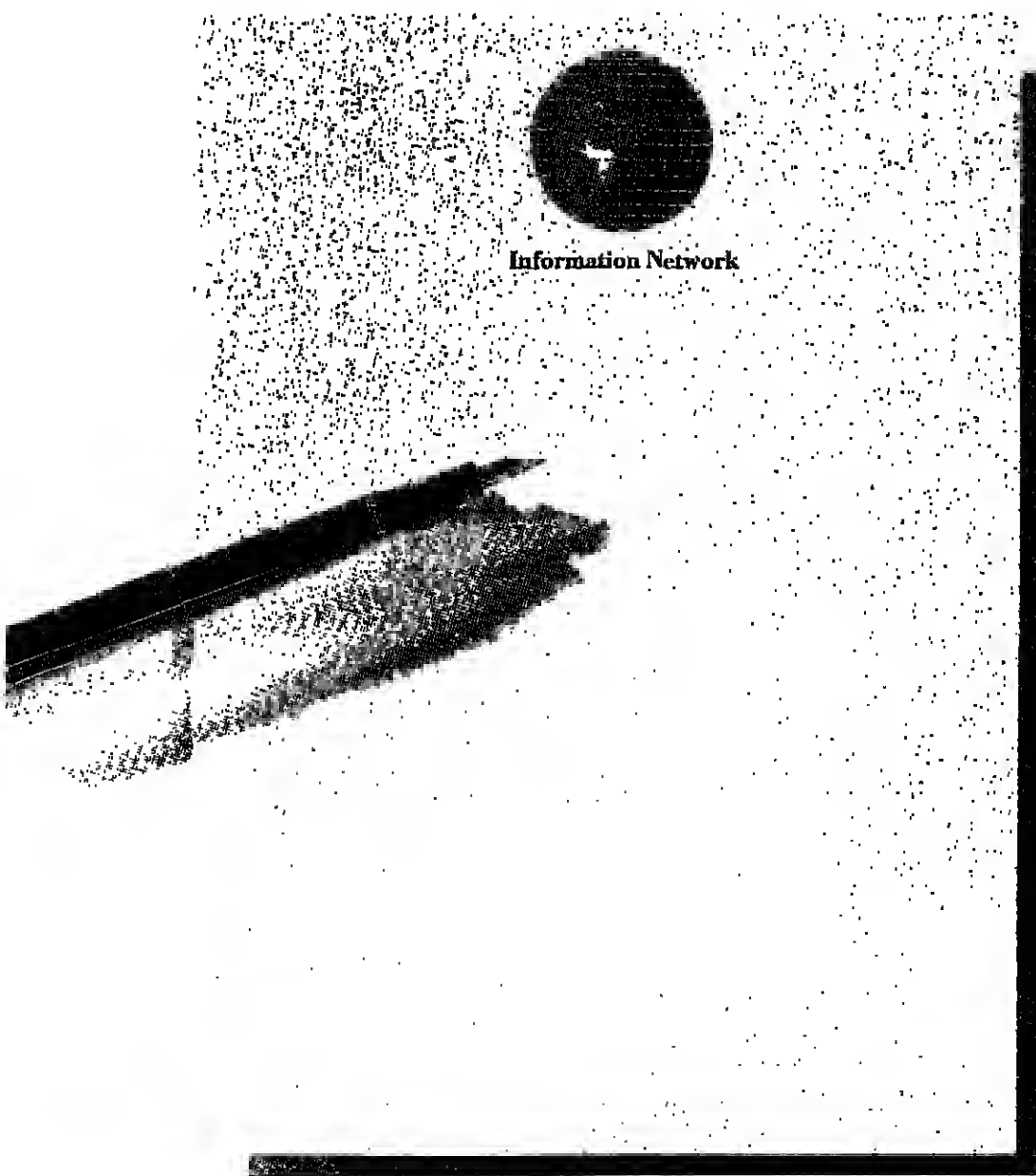
Because outsourcing contracts usually involve the transfer of computer personnel as well as software and hardware, keeping a check on what is happening between the outsourcing supplier and the software houses may at times be difficult.

The skills for understanding the computer software may well have been transferred with the staff to the outsourcing company. But in practice many customers retain a sort of internal policeman who knows the issues, to monitor a contract's life.

With this in mind some solicitors advise that the source code for programs should be held in escrow, that is by a legally recognised third party to which the customer would have access in the event of unforeseen



The question of software copyright is already a concern



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Customer satisfaction often fades as prices of the service rise



David Kerr is a partner with a solicitors' firm which has negotiated outsourcing contracts totalling £1 billion

Customers are usually initially pleased with the service from outsourcing suppliers, a recent survey of the UK market shows. But for some, the satisfaction wears off as the contract goes on.

The Europe-wide survey by Input, a market research company, suggests that some customers believe vendors "are making excessive profits at their expense". The suppliers deny this.

Peter Willmott, Input's programme manager for outsourcing, says one problem is the expectations raised by outsourcing contracts, which promise increased level of service and savings on information-technology expenditure.

"For the first six months," he says, "customers are extremely happy, getting better service and a reduction in costs. But that does not happen in subsequent years."

The reason can sometimes be a lack of communication and the absence of a genuine partnership among outsourcer and client.

Mr Willmott says: "Vendors are obeying the strict letter of the contract with service level agreements. But they are not telling the customer how he or she can make the best use of IT to help the business if it falls outside the contract."

Outsourcing IT facilities management contracts in the IT industry are more complex than the majority of agreements between a customer and seller. It can involve not

just the transfer of capital equipment such as hardware, but software which is licensed from several companies. In addition staff may be transferred from the original customer's employment to the outsourcing provider with all the implications that holds for employment protection and pensions legislation.

There is no such thing as a standard outsourcing contract. Each case is different: supplier and the customer negotiate the contract according to its level of complexity.

The Computing Services Association (CSA), the software and services business's trade association, publishes a code of practice on facilities management and outsourcing. Douglas Eysons, the CSA's director-general, believes that the most important issue to be sorted out between supplier and customer is service level agreements. These stipulate what has to be done by the supplier and the time scales in which tasks must be completed.

David Kerr is a partner with Bird & Bird, a solicitors' firm, which over the years has negotiated outsourcing contracts totalling £1 billion. He agrees that defining the level of service and the way it is delivered is the main headache. "About 15 key issues have to be carefully looked at," he says.

Similarly, the employment and transfer of staff is a "minefield," he says. "A lot of the original contracts that were negotiated three years ago are up for renewal. What happens to the staff is a major concern."

The original staff of an outsourcing client may have been transferred to an outsourcing supplier. When the contract is up for renewal, it may be awarded to another outsourcing company, leaving open the question of redundancy, pensions, continuity of service and conditions.

Bird & Bird has a standard outsourcing contract, which it supplies to its clients. But Mr Kerr says it is only a guideline to indicate the issues involved in a highly complex arrangement. Every outsourcing deal is different.

In some cases, staff will be offered employment with the supplier, in others they will not. Nor is completing an outsourcing agreement quick or easy. It usually takes between three and six months before the deal is finally signed and

delivered, although, says Mr Kerr, one agreement took two years to complete.

During a three or five-year contract, there may be increases in the costs of hardware and software licences, which can lead to a dispute over who should pay the extra.

Steve Webb, a divisional director of Hoskyns, a facilities management and software supplier, agrees there may be sometimes be a question mark over responsibility but that usually it falls within supplier's remit. "We have written each contract individually," he says, "but we would usually consider the underlying costs a part of the pain we have to bear as FM suppliers."

Most customers, however, are generally satisfied with their contracts and their supplier, according to the Input survey. Renewal rates for contracts are running at about 90 per cent.

Outsourcing is one of the prime growth areas of IT because fewer and fewer companies want the burden of an IT department and the huge costs involved. Outsourcing remains one of the most attractive ways of off-loading the IT overhead.

Prospective customers should, however, be aware that an outsourcing contract is a document that is unique to the client and the service provider and that there is no quick and easy standard format for drawing one up.

SEAN HALLAHAN



THEATRE page 38
Roman orgy meets
Eurovision Song Contest
in Tim Luscombe's
latest, bizarre play

ARTS

POP page 39
From Space Oddity to
Buddha of Suburbia: the
complete David Bowie
collected on record



Landmarks, and roads to nowhere

Poor Roger Hilton. During his final years, when he was confined to bed with a painful illness provoked by chronic alcohol abuse, the irascible artist was only able to work on a small scale with gouache on paper. By the time of his death in 1975, hundreds of these lively images had been produced. But they could hardly compensate him for the loss of his capacity to paint on canvas, and he was never granted a proper retrospective during his lifetime.

Now Hilton has been given an exhibition at the Hayward Gallery. But even here, in a survey dedicated to defining his postwar eminence as an abstract painter, there is something half-hearted about the event. Only a quarter of the Hayward has been allotted to the show. The long, narrow gallery it occupies on the ground floor forces Hilton's work into a constricted area. The walls seem to close on the paintings, forcing the visitor to negotiate a labyrinthine sequence of spaces.

They suit the early work tolerably enough. Hilton was a slow starter, and struggled in the 1930s to arrive at his own identity. Dissatisfied with the conservatism of Professor Tonks's stern precepts at the Slade, he moved to Paris for the stimulus of Roger Bissière's class at the Académie Ranson. The teach-

Stubborn vitality meets impeccable cool in two one-man shows on the South Bank. Richard Cork reports

ing there was more in tune with Hilton's adventurous leanings, but his little oil of a *Seated Model* from the mid-1930s still seems influenced by Duncan Grant and Vanessa Bell. At a time when new English art was fired by abstraction, the young Hilton remained hesitant.

Only after the war, when he was incarcerated in German POW camps for three years, did he begin to fulfil his potential. Influenced by French abstractionists like Bazaine and Manessier, Hilton produced increasingly fluent and sensuous images. His real breakthrough came in 1953. Travelling to Holland with the Dutch painter Constant, whose work had recently become bolder and more abstract, he enjoyed studying Mondrian's paintings. The example of both these artists persuaded him to simplify, explore more audacious colours and give his work a greater solidity than before.

February 1954 is a landmark picture. Dominated by the blaring slab of scarlet inhabiting the centre, it is otherwise restricted to black and white. Although impossible to pin down in representa-

tional terms, this dynamic image contains suggestions of a played human figure and, indeed, a snowy landscape.

Having defined this tough-minded stance, Hilton did not encourage the viewer to hunt out representational references in his work. The titles he chose simply cited the month and year when the paintings were produced. As the 1950s proceeded, though, his images gradually took on a greater complexity. Hints of the countryside and female bodies continue to tantalise, and the handling becomes far more supple. The old toughness coexists with passages of soft, feathery delicacy, while swathes of uninterrupted colour are juxtaposed with straggling charcoal marks. Hilton loved drawing, and he found a way of incorporating line in paintings otherwise notable for virtuosity with the brush.

Fortified by an increasing reliance on improvisation, his range grew wider. The 1959 canvas, *Palisade*, achieves sumptuousness even though limited to umber, black, sepia and a succulent use of white. Suggestions of boats and the sea appear here, reflecting Hilton's involvement with the

area around St Ives. And in *Blue Newlyn* water and sky seem to merge in an estuary of wildly brushed ultramarine. His most boisterous canvas, however, is *Dancing Woman*, a flamboyant image inspired by a memory of his naked wife jumping on a balcony. Matisse is now the strongest influence in this exclamatory figure, but her swinging left breast has a jauntiness belonging to Hilton alone.

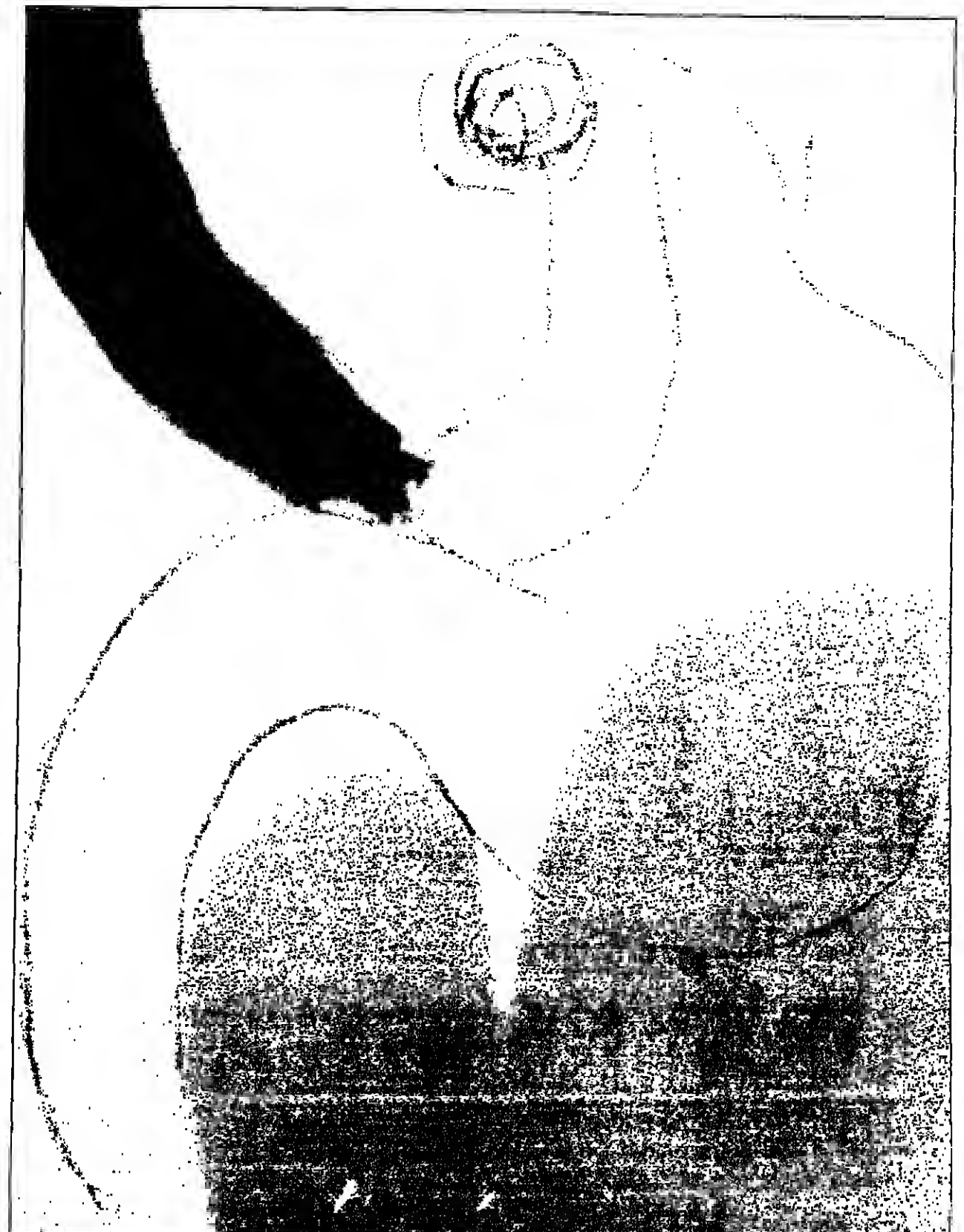
Although prone to depression, he ensured that his work is often animated by humour. Nowhere more than in the late gouaches, where animals, humans, sailing vessels and burgeoning vegetation are all swiftly summarised with a risk-taking energy unimpeded by worsening health. "The more alive a person or a picture," Hilton once said, "the better they are." And he pursued this vitality to the last.

The greater part of the Hayward has been taken over by the prolific painter and sculptor Julian Opie, whose work could hardly be more opposed to Hilton's. At 34, Opie is already enjoying the kind of large-scale gallery accolade which Hilton never experienced. And the world explored by the younger man is far removed from the St Ives aesthetic.

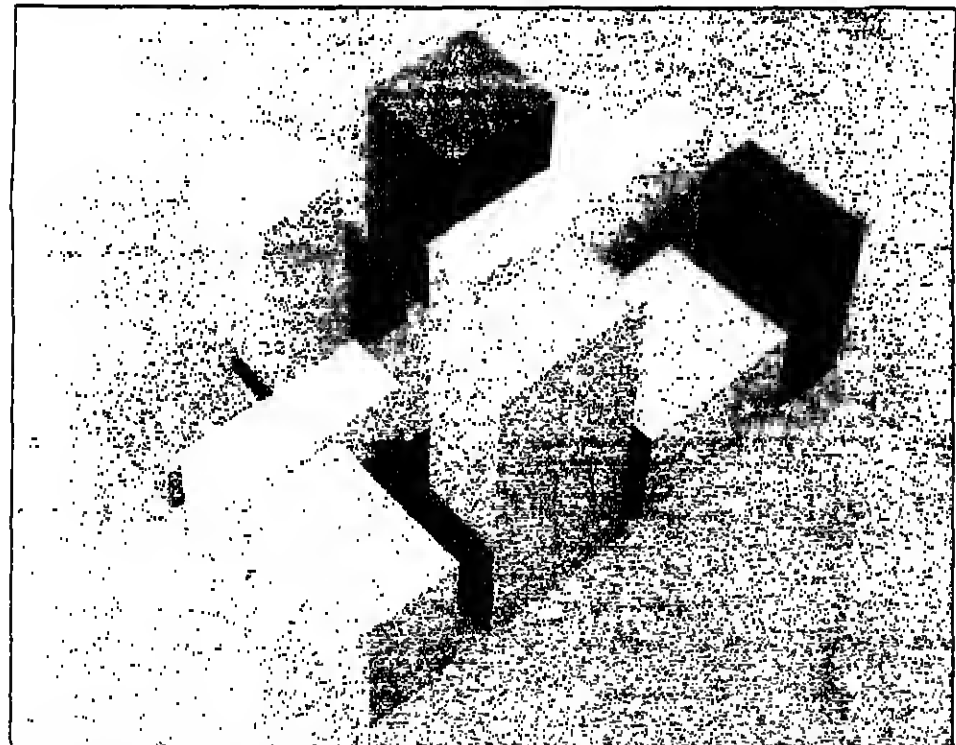
Sleek and impersonal, Opie soon removes all trace of the individual mark-making which lies at the centre of Hilton's art. A few early sculptures, painted in a swift and racy manner, are included as reminders of his former hands-on approach. But they look awkward in the large, overcrowded arena where Opie intermingles them with later, more anonymous works.

Blank, streamlined and impeccably cool, these containers present a polished front. Most of these gleaming boxes and screens look as if they have strayed from an airport foyer, and Opie appears most at home in impersonal locales.

Upstairs, where the installations become far more lucid, a room of colossal wall-paintings invites us to enter a maze-like world. Blue skies are visible here, but they do little to enliven the cold, empty facades of the buildings below. Unalleviated by doors or windows, they seem impervious to our presence. Video screens at one end take us on a computerised journey through these unrevealing streets, but they lead nowhere. Opie's virtual reality is numbing, a sanitised



May 1963 by Roger Hilton: Hilton did not encourage the viewer to hunt out representational references in his work



Imagine you can order these (1993), by Julian Opie: detached and devoid of incident. Opie's work is scarcely more enlivening than the architecture of the South Bank

and machine-made place where all human quirkiness has been banished.

Imagine you are walking murmurs the title to these wall-paintings, as if some excitement might be derived from the activity. But it is devoid of incident, and the same detachment prevails in the cluster of bright painted concrete blocks assembled on the Hayward's larger terrace. Their primary colours look cheerful enough, positioned against the backdrop of drab, stained buildings around them. At heart, however, Opie's work is scarcely more enlivening than the architecture of the South Bank.

Opie-land is at its most relentless in the motorway paintings near the gallery entrance. Black by day and grey-blue at night, the flat expanses of tarmac stretch towards featureless horizons. Imagine you are driving whispers the caption, but nobody would want to linger on this empty, monotonous road for long. Purging everything of tension and purpose, Opie shows just how atrophied and depressing the world could become as we glide along the standardised route-path to the new millennium.

● Roger Hilton and Julian Opie at the Hayward Gallery 071-928 3144 until Feb 6

Vision of Vienna



WHILE the British government dilly-dallies as to whether to accept the £1 billion collection of Islamic art on offer from the art dealer/collector David Khalili, the Austrian authorities have shown no such reticence over a group of 20th-century paintings assembled by the Viennese art dealer Rudolph Leopold. For the collection, which includes major works by Schiele, Kokoschka and Klimt, they have just paid £153 million. What's more, Vienna has agreed to build a museum for the collection and instal Leopold as director. Mind you, it is understood that negotiations took a good 15 years. There's hope for Dr Khalili yet.

● A MINIATURE medieval triptych which was rejected by the vetting committee for the Grosvenor House fair last year has been bought for £100,000 by the town of Stuttgart. The city fathers believe it to be by an important 14th-century Burgundian jeweller. The development is an embarrassment for the fair's

organisers, who always claim the vetting system is proof of Grosvenor House's superiority over other fairs. Meanwhile, they have also lost one of their most prestigious exhibitors, Warski, which since the incident has chosen to exhibit elsewhere.

Vintage banger

THE old banger which starred in a 1953 hit film on the London to Brighton Run is to be sold, after participating once more in that annual event last Sunday. The auctioneer Robert Brooks says *Genevieve* — both the name of the 1904 12hp Darracq and the title of the film — is "perhaps the best known car in the world". According to Brooks, the car's Australian owners paid £289,000 for it some time ago, but he has no idea what it is worth today. "How do you place an estimate on a legend?"

SARAH JANE CHECKLAND

THEATRE: MSM at the Royal Court

Scenes from a cottage industry

The initials of the title, MSM, stand for "men who have sex with men" and MSM is used, though I don't know by whom, as a neutral description of an activity. The men do not have to be gay, straight, bi or transsexual; they just have to be men. And while we are into word games, the presenting company (under its director Lloyd Newson) is DVS.

Hitherto, the company has been known for its dance and movement works. But though some of the actors are sinuous and lithe enough to insert their bodies through fairly small holes in a wall, dance is not the style of this unprecedented, artfully constructed work.

There is music on the soundtrack (by Jocelyn Pook), suggestively used to emphasise or alter moods, and incorporating choral music. Kathleen Ferrier's "Blow the Wind Southerly" (a puzzling inclusion) and the sound of dripping water. Watery sounds come in early on, while we are staring at a lush wall of glazed tiles. Holes open in some of these and eyes peer through them, because the entire action takes place in underground public conveniences — known, in this context, as "cottages".

Newson and other members of DVS interviewed over 50 men in the hopes of discovering what it is that draws some men to find sexual release in an environment that fastidi-

ous persons would consider not very nice. All the words used in the work derive from these interviews, and their variety creates a comic, sombre, meta-world of brief encounters.

But the words would sustain merely documentary interest without Newson's constantly fascinating staging. The tiled wall folds back to reveal a row of cubicles: a line of gleaming white stalls glides on and is divided, each one then being treated like a mobile pulpit. Men slither over walls, through walls, hang upside down scratching graffiti, eye each other and steel themselves for the approach.

Although many habits are said to be married men fancying a bit of the other, there is far less evidence from them here than from gays. Setting aside any thrills that come from the occasional dangers, what makes the addition so compulsive appears to be the chance it offers of stepping sideways into anonymity, where sex comes untrammelled with love, duty, propriety or even affection, as a man can return to being a randy animal. Randy, anxious, and at one point boldly mucky. DVS's actors explore the many aspects of an addiction and turn it (though how, er, queer that it should be possible) into a celebration.

JEREMY KINGSTON

Living up to the sales talk

TELEVISION REVIEW: A brilliant new four-part satire started on BBC1 last night



Daring to dispense with the canned laughter: Adrian Edmondson, Imelda Staunton and Richard Briers

Peering cheerfully into the coffin of his dead wife — who was unfortunately stoned to death by football hooligans in Hamburg — wheelchair-bound Godfrey Spry (Richard Briers) answers yes, he would like a cup of tea. "You'll find a packet of Twinsell's twin action tea-bags in my suitcase," he informs his niece. "Their special binary perforations allow more of the flavour to seep through, for that richer more refreshing-tasting cuppa, just the thing to cheer up your day, when — when your wife's dead."

No wonder she looks a little surprised. Is this peculiar, or what? The programme is the new four-part comedy *If You See God, Tell Him*, written by Andrew Marshall (2 point 4 Children) and David Renwick (One Foot in the Grave). And if the viewer doesn't feel comfortable, doesn't laugh much, it's because this is a brave stab at old-fashioned satire, and we are not accustomed to it, especially on BBC1.

which an old man yells ecstatically for his wife, "Agnest! It's Jimmy! Ringing to say Happy Anniversary from Kodak Lumpy!" Spry can't wait to try it. "I'm calling from London," he tells the disgruntled antipodean who answers the call. "Easy, isn't it?"

I have to admit I only laughed when the jokes were at their very simplest. After a brilliant re-creation of an upbeat, rap-dance commercial for the Westward Bank, Spry is discovered sitting outside the manager's door in a dismal room dominated by the sounds of sawing and hammering. A secretary is mulling "the computer's gone down", meanwhile, when Spry reaches for one of the magazines spread fan-wise on a table, he discovers (hilariously) they are all stuck together, on a board.

If You See God, Tell Him is made without canned laughter. So it is quite a challenge, especially since the comic actors involved — Adrian Edmondson as the cynical nephew Gordon, Imelda Staunton as Gordon's soft-hearted wife Muriel — are not playing for easy laughs. But it is the cleverest and most daring thing I have seen in ages. Amazingly, it even resists the temptation to caricature the commercials, Victoria Wood-style. Instead, they are simply spot-on. "With Pangloss polish you'll clean up in less time than you thought possible," says Briers, brightly. "Try tomorrow: the results will amaze you."

LYNNE TRUSS

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POP ON FRIDAY: Nirvana's favourite group hit the road ... Bowie's songs of suburbia ... Dina Carroll souls out

Teenage kicks all through the night

Caitlin Moran
sits quietly in
Teenage
Fancub's
dressing-room
and is blinded by
the delights

There's supposed to be a Teenage Fancub sound-check going on. The smudge-eyed blur of hair and boniness that is Raymond McGinley sits on a bantered chair in the dank bunker of a dressing-room, wrapping his fingers around a series of beautiful chords on an acoustic guitar. On the concrete steps opposite him, drummer Brendan O'Hare, who is the Milky Bar Kid, plays with a small plastic box studded with buttons and switches. He programmes it to play a waltz and the beat starts to echo around the room.

McGinley catches up with it, and it turns into the Stranglers' "Golden Brown". Just as McGinley remembers the words, O'Hare smiles evilly and changes the beat to "rock 'n' roll" mode. McGinley thinks for a minute, then lets loose a string of wonderful chords. "I thought of this last night," he says.

Norman Blake, the band's frontman, wanders into the room. As this is Berlin, every single available space in the room is taken up with plates of cold meat, liver paté and sliced sausage. He picks up a plate of bratwurst. "Ah, this is disgusting," he says. "What's that?" he asks, nodding at the busily strumming McGinley. "New songs," McGinley says.

Blake hums for a few minutes, then starts harmonising: his cracked voice sounding like that of a broken-hearted choirboy. He leaps up the steps past O'Hare and out on to the stage, grabs a pair of drumsticks and starts drumming to McGinley's tunes.

"That's my job," O'Hare mutters, finds another switch on the side of his box, and introduces an electronic orchestra to the affair. Gerry Love, the Fannies' bass player, enters the room just as McGinley and Blake hit a celestial G-spot of harmonies.

"Oh no," he says. "You're not being spontaneous again, are you?" He interrupts McGinley to ask him for cigarettes, sits in the corner and



Teenage Fancub — (from left) Raymond McGinley, Brendan O'Hare, Norman Blake, Gerry Love — are following up their latest album, *Thirteen*, with a British tour

pretends to sulk. Inevitably, though, the two-part harmonies eventually become three-part harmonies, and the song spirals away into perfection. The Fannies have been on tour for two months. They are still lost in music.

The beauty of Teenage Fancub is that all four members take it in turns to be the genius of the band. Blake, the mega-charismatic main songwriter, will write the gloriously shambolic "Alcohololiday" so Love will try and top it with "Fear of Flying" (wherein a barrage of "hey, hey heys" drench the chorus when someone blows a whistle), and then McGinley will come up with the lovelorn "120 mins," which shivers with mandolins and a hole in the heart that can be filled by only one person.

That round played out, they start again: "What You Do To Me," versus "The Concept" versus "Is

This Music" versus "God Knows It's True" versus "So Far Gone". It's as if the Byrds and the Beatles and Big Star and Neil Young had all been reincarnated as four intensely charming men from Glasgow.

Formed in 1989, the band was immediately ushered on to stereo, up on walls and into hearts everywhere. Their warm, lazy, molten pop-rock punched a hole in the hegemony of bouse music and the Manchester shuffle that were dominating at the time. Even at this early stage, the Fannies had written "Everything Flows", a song of such pristine wonder that lesser bands ran away and hid their faces in shame.

The first album, *A Catholic Education*, was a crumpled of rock dripping with the butter of pop, and the follow-up, 1991's *Bandwagon*, was a classic, containing lines like, "Says she won't be forced against her will — so she don't do drugs but she does the pill", and the gloriously wild-eyed romp of "Alcohololiday", which made the sun come out and grown men cry at the modest that was the 1992 Reading Festival. A worldwide tour with the band's biggest fans, Nirvana, followed, and then — nothing.

The band disappeared utterly for a year, surfacing again last month with their third album, *Thirteen* (Creation Records), which, along with the new Lemonheads and Blur LPs, is possibly the greatest thing to happen to music since someone bought Elvis a nice new pair of suede shoes. Buy it, if only for "Get Funky," O'Hare's track, on which he invents "grisco" — "It's grunge and disco".

The Fannies keep inventing new ones. During the Berlin soundcheck, they invited reggae — "techno with a hint of reggae" — and "the classics". "That's like the blues with a classical strain. Like Mozart's bird has just left him and he's feeling a bit down."

We leave them as they discuss a gig they recently played in Sweden to a crowd of hippies and travellers. "It was this square in the middle of town, and we noticed one huge dog wandering around, all by itself," O'Hare says, abandoning his wonder-box and pulling Trivial Pursuit

from his travel bag. "It went behind a pillar, and suddenly it was back again, in a crowd of hundreds of thousands of dogs, millions of them. We couldn't work out where they'd all come from."

"Aye, it was a Trojan dog," McGinley says sagely. There's a small silence, then everybody starts giggling.

"That's a brilliant title for a song," Blake says. "Trojan Dog." Pass me my guitar. And they're off again.

● Teenage Fancub on tour: The Forum, London NW5, Nov 18; Norwich UEA, Nov 19; Cambridge Corn Exchange, Nov 20; Reading University, Nov 21; The Event, Brighton, Nov 22; Southampton University, Nov 24; Sheffield Octagon, Nov 25; Glasgow Barrowlands, Nov 26; Newcastle University, Nov 27; Nottingham Rock City, Nov 29; Town & Country Club, Leeds, Nov 30; Hull University, Dec 1; Manchester Academy, Dec 2; Royal Court, Liverpool, Dec 3

All four
members take
it in turns to
be the genius
of the band

CONCERT

Killer queen

Dina Carroll
Hammersmith
Apollo

DINA Carroll has had sweet revenge on all those who wrote her off as just another dance diva. Sales of her first album, *So Close*, are past the 600,000 mark, while the single "Don't Be A Stranger" has become the biggest of a chain of Top 20 hits.

Such sustained success has brought belated acknowledgment of both a strong and attacking vocal presence and the acute pop sensibility that lies behind it. But from the outset of her first ever London concert appearance, one sensed that such grudging recognition was not enough for Carroll. And, as her set unfolded, it became clear she was out for nothing short of total vindication.

So it was that — and in marked contrast to her retiring presence off-stage — she seized an adoring audience by the scruff of its collective neck. By the end of her first number, the spirited "Special Kind of Love", she had laid out her terms: total mutual involvement, no acceptance of shyness or reserve.

By the second, the similarly energetic "Hold On", she had succeeded in making hand-clapping and arm-waving obligatory. And by the third, in which she reprised her debut chart role as featured vocalist on Quartz's dance adaptation of the Carole King hit "It's Too Late", she had the Apollo on its feet.

And so the evening continued. The Cambridge-based star brought a gospel edge to a minimally arranged version of Danny Whitten's "I Don't Want To Talk About It". Want To Talk About It? The smouldered beautifully on the ballads "So Close" and "The Perfect Year", and closed with a celebratory romp through her anthemic dance track "Ain't No Man". As debuts go, this was a triumph.

ALAN JACKSON

DAVID BOWIE
The Buddha of Suburbia
(Arista 74321 170042)
Bowie — *The Singles*
Collection
(EMI 8 28099)

IT WOULD be difficult to think of anyone better suited than David Bowie to write and perform the soundtrack to *The Buddha of Suburbia*, the television dramatisation of Hanif Kureishi's novel set in the 1970s. The arch mannerisms and touches of space-age vaudeville that are second nature to him by now were also (largely thanks to him) defining elements of the London music scene in the 1970s.

"Sometimes I fear that the whole world is queer," he sings in that famous, mock-cockney drawl on the opening title-track, deftly capturing the peculiarly fickle quality of teenage angst. The airy, haunting melody — reprised at the end of the album with a hectic guitar solo from Lemmy Kravitz — is faintly redolent of the theme for Julien Temple's film *Absolute Beginners*, another notable soundtrack success from Bowie's past.

The numbers that make up the bulk of the album are extended reconstructions of bits and pieces (mostly instrumental) written for the soundtrack, but bear little resemblance to the music heard in the television series. Bowie does his best Marc Bolan imitation on "Untitled No 1" and there are good vocal melodies struggling to emerge from the rather cluttered, keyboard-heavy productions of "Strangers When We Meet" and "Dead Against It".

Elsewhere, Bowie's imagination is given free rein, with mixed results. A mush of droning keyboard and scratchy record effects turn "Ian Fish, U.K. Heir" into a pretty tedious experience, but the random cut-up techniques employed on "South Horizon" — where all instruments were apparently played both forwards and backwards to produce a weird collage of sounds and pseudo-jazz rhythms — provide their own mysterious momentum. This is Bowie indulging some of the wilder extremes of his creative whimsy.

But it is his supreme ability to operate within the constraints of the three-minute pop song that remains his true achievement, and Bowie — *The Singles Collection* is a timely reminder of his endur-

NEW ALBUMS: Multi-faceted David Bowie tackles a television soundtrack

Still famous after golden years



David Bowie pictured (left) at the time of his first big hit, "Space Oddity", and a few years later, as Ziggy Stardust

ing excellence in this regard. A 37-track double CD, it traces the Bowie story from the early flying past Batterssea Power Station — but while ambient-reggae motifs in the Orb may have taken the Floyd's love of space sound effects as their starting point, their finishing point is not a great deal further down the line.

Recorded at shows in Copenhagen, Tokyo and Glasgobury, this double album is an amorphous collection of soundscapes. The many long,

tranced-out interludes are peppered with birdsong, industrial bangs and crashes and odd disjointed voices, often with no conventional rhythmic or harmonic progressions to hold them together at all.

Sometimes the bass locks into a dark funk riff or a dub reggae motif is pumped enthusiastically through the system, but it is never very long before the Dr Who spaceship noises take over again.



speaking, a musical rendering of a 19th-century German folk tale about a man who makes a pact with the devil. It begins with Waits bawling at the listener in his buckster-from-hell voice, enjoining us all to step on up and witness "human oddities ... the three-headed baby ... Hitler's brain ... the dog-face boy", and so on. The determinedly shabby, waltz-time accompaniment, provided by a motley collection of half-tuned instruments — cello, banjo, trombone, french horn — staggers like a punch-drunk boxer, as the litany grows ever more extreme.

This rather tired and pointless charade sets the tone for an album which is, at best, hard work. Having slipped his moorings from reality, however, Waits has descended here into a self-conscious attempt to mimic the weirdness of Euro-

pean writers like Jacques Brel and Kurt Weill, with shambolic results.

DAVID HALLEY
Broken Spell
(dos/Topic 7003)
HAVING had his songs recorded by acts including Willie Nelson, the late Keith Whitley and Joe Ely, the Texan singer David Halley finally recorded his own country-flavoured debut, *Stray Dog Talk*, in 1990.

Broken Spell, the belated follow-up, finds him trading in a more direct brand of prairie-baked rock — the sort of thing Tom Petty, John Hiatt or even Bob Dylan (if he could sing) might go in for — underpinned by an ultra-controlled guitar sound à la Mark Knopfler or David Lindley. There are some wonderful songs in here, but unless he tours or does something more to promote it, Halley will have put out another fine album that is unlikely to get much of an airing.

DAVID SINCLAIR

TOP TEN ALBUMS

- 1 Both Sides Phil Collins (Virgin)
- 2 So Far So Good Bryan Adams (A&M)
- 3 Bat Out Of Hell II — Back Into Hell Meat Loaf (Virgin)
- 4 End Of Part One — Greatest Hits Wet Wet Wet (Fifecious)
- 5 The Red Shoes Kate Bush (EMI)
- 6 So Natural Lisa Stansfield (Arista)
- 7 One Woman — The Ultimate Collection Diana Ross (EMI)
- 8 Everything Changes Take That (RCA)
- 9 So Close Dina Carroll (A&M)
- 10 Experience The Divine Betts Midler (Atlantic)

Compiled by MJB

YOUR COUNTRY NEEDS
YOU

New "brain drain" figures show Britain gains from world trade in top brain power - but loses its own brightest and best.

Professor Simon Blackburn describes the joys of American living.

Kay Tee Khaw tells us why she's glad to be back here.

John Elliott tells us why he isn't.

NOVEMBER 12 ISSUE

HIGHER

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Journeyman pair make ends meet to try to realise their golfing dreams

Self-help lies at heart of qualifying game

FROM ANDREW LONGMORE
IN MONTPELLIER

IT IS not the most prepossessing camping site in the world, sandwiched between a heap of grass clippings and the groundsman's shed, but for Mark Litton and Steve Bottomley, this will be the view from their front window for the next few days.

Brighter vistas may lie ahead. The present is a utilitarian motorhome, a converted four-ton lorry bought off Harvey Smith's youngest son, limited hot water, good home cooking and a camaraderie that does much to compensate for the lack of creature comforts, the broken accelerator cable and the severe case of overheating suffered on the long journey to the south of France.

Besides, despite the repair bills, 150,000 miles on the clock and a boneshaking top speed of 60mph, it is £300 a week cheaper than staying in a hotel, and Bottomley is a Yorkshireman.

The pair have been living in the solitary splendour of the home for much of the season, reviving a tradition that goes back to Ian Woosnam in the day before he swapped his camper van for a private plane and a tax haven in Jersey. Woosnam still fondly remembers those uncomplimentary times and it is the vision of emulating the Welshman that drives on the large British contingent in Montpellier for the European Tour qualifying school.

Yesterday, all was sweetness for Bottomley and Litton and, as the electric had decided to work for once, light. Litton scored a seven-under-par 65, one behind the leader, Andrew Collison, Bottomley a healthy, but more modest 69. "Don't want to peak too soon, you know," Bottomley chided. "He'll be cooking for us all week if he goes on playing like that."

After ten years as a professional, mostly spent plodding round deserted courses on the subsidiary Challenge Tour, Litton is willing to savour any moment of success. Disappointment has been too close a companion for him to be presumptuous about the next five rounds.

"There is still a long way to



Litton (left) and Bottomley relax in the converted lorry that is their home for the European Tour qualifying school in Montpellier this week

go, but I've tried to tackle this week more positively than in recent years," Litton said. "Before, I was thinking I don't like the place, I don't like the course, I don't like anything about this. Your whole future's at stake here, but I've tried to forget about that and treat it like a normal tournament. Having the van has helped. You can get away from the tensions of the other players."

There have been more difficult days during the long summer, when the friendship has been strained to the limit by the triumph and despair of their mind-twisting profession. "If he scores 65 and I have 70, it's hard," Bottomley said. "Nobody wants to know you if you've had a bad round.

We just try to help each other out as much as we can." With spectacular success at times.

Once, at the dead of night earlier in the season, Bottomley had given Litton some advice on his swing after a poor round. The following day, Litton shot a 65, moving up to second in the tournament, while Bottomley dropped out of contention.

Memory of the indignity provokes a flow of invective. "It was a nightmare. Cost me a fortune and you know what he did when he won £11,000 the previous week: bought me an ice cream. An ice cream. If he wins here, the cost of his board and lodging is doubled, that's for sure." "Hey, it was a very expensive ice cream," Litton countered.

Even by the standards of the qualifying school, Bottomley's bad-luck story is worse than most. Having virtually secured the £1,000 he needed to ensure his Tour card in 1991, he missed his tee-time because of a delay for bad weather and was disqualified. He won £347, not enough to get his card back. He has been on the main Tour for four years on and off, in that twilight world where birdies mean the luxury of new tyres rather than remodels. "But I keep having to come back to this bloody place," he said, with an understandable touch of bitterness in his voice.

Litton has been here more times than he cares to remember as well and, at 31, time is running out on his dreams.

He makes enough to pay the mortgage and keep himself going, supplementing his winnings by selling yardage charts to his fellow competitors at tournaments for £5 each. The danger, he admits, is that you begin to think like a Challenge Tour player and accept limited horizons.

"Some will always stay in that comfort zone. The Challenge Tour is friendly and everyone is happy at others' success. On the main Tour, they will tread all over you to get to the top and that can be hard." For much of the season, Litton had been in the top ten of the Challenge Tour, which would have given him an automatic place on the European Tour next season.

The realisation that he was on the threshold, however, produced self-doubt. "I suddenly knew I would have to find out how good I really was," he said. "By the time I had conquered that, I had gone off the boil and it took five weeks to get my confidence back. I'm coming to the moment when I have to go forward or back." Just as long as that accelerator cable has been fixed.

LEADING FIRST-ROUND SCORES:
La Grande Motte: 64: A Collison (Eng), 65: M Litton (Wales), 66: R Alvarez (Arg), C M Stromberg (Swe), 67: L Westwood (Eng), M Sorensen (Den), 68: P Poole (Eng), R McParlane (Eng), P Lister (US), J Taylor (Aus), J Hall (Eng), 69: B Nesher (US), 70: B Fouchet (SA), A Cruick (SA), 71: Gervase (Sp), A Cofre (Ger), M Bessancey (Fr), 72: S Graham (Eng), S Henning (SA), R Winchester (Eng), N Hoadley (Eng), P Hedblom (Swe).

Sport's rulers stand accused over foul play

David Miller says the errors of officials are tipping the scales against enforcement of justice



THE role of the Central Council of Physical Recreation within British sports administration has always been controversial and uncertain, ever since its national sports centres were ceded to control by the Sports Council. The authority of some governing bodies within the CCPR is even more in doubt following a strange blunder in tactics, not to say etiquette.

There has been an attempt to warn off Edward Grayson, Britain's foremost authority on sports' relationship with civil and criminal law, from publishing a revised edition of his seminal work, *Sport And The Law*. Pre-publication publicity on the new edition is already well advanced, and Grayson told the messengers bluntly what he could tell his employers.

The gist of the warning was that the governing bodies of certain British sports, for whom the CCPR is a relatively powerless talking-shop for cross-reference, have got their act together and no longer need the benefit of Grayson's advice. Indeed, formal legal interference in the shape of Grayson's book was unwelcome, though his presence was as usual appreciatively welcomed at this year's CCPR national conference, which began on Wednesday.

It would be difficult to imagine a more inopportune moment for an attempted muzzling of one of the few people in Britain willing to speak up for standards of sportsmanship or, in the absence of resolution by administrators, to advocate recourse to the law.

Since none of the rugby union authorities, seemingly, is capable of taking positive action over the disciplinary foul by a New Zealand forward on Philip de Glanville, the only remaining obstacle between sportsmanship and outright anarchy is the law of the land. With the International Rugby Football Board, never mind the Rugby Football Union or New Zealand, incapable of imposing discipline, de Glanville's only source of justice being seen to be done is civil action.

The timidity of rugby's administrators — whatever the CCPR may like to think, or Sir Peter Yarranton, the rugby-based chairman of the Sports Council, may say — is beyond belief. Here we have Ian Beer, former Cambridge University captain, former headmaster of Lancing and then Harrow, supposed flag-bearer of the morality of youth and RFU president, willing to do no more than to tell the New Zealanders "we disapprove of your style".

In any sporting organisation bound by honour, it

would surely have been agreed that the offending New Zealand player was, at the very least, suspended from the first international match against Scotland. Many would say he should have been put on the first plane home after stamping on the face of a player when the ball was nowhere near.

Far from protestations that governing bodies have got their act together, some are no more in control than bystanders at a cattle stampede. No administrator wants to cause another administrator offence: nearly gouging out a player's eye is apparently not offensive, or at least not sufficiently so to jeopardise a commercially attractive match.

I feel ashamed to belong to that generation of university sportsmen now in administrative authority who have surrendered almost everything I believed we were supposed to represent. Here we are in an era where cricket helmets are meekly taken for granted as "necessary", where every other week a footballer's cheek is broken by an elbow and the FA chief executive complacently says he sees it all the time and so what.

Sport, and the CCPR, is governed by appalling euphemism. Intimidatory foul play is excused under the expression "giving the opponent a reminder you're there". Beer may shake his head at New Zealand's wilful intransigence and say they lack understanding. I would say they understand exactly what they are doing and are shamelessly confident they can get away with it.

With what cynicism the French must now view the international board, given the hounding the French have received for foul play. But then, of course, that country is the only one of the eight founding members which does not speak the right lingo.

Fouling — or rucking, as the New Zealanders would say — is no more legal on the rugby field than would be the same action if perpetrated at some demonstration in Trafalgar Square, and the penalty should be the same. If sport is not fair, it is nothing. In a properly run game Sean Fitzpatrick would at the very least be put in the corner and told to stay there until the end of school. Rugby administrators, of whatever nationality, have forgotten the basic premise of why we play sport.

The fact that the CCPR seems unwilling to recognise this further disqualifies it from any involvement in a projected unified single body of British sports administration.

Ozaki out of step but on song

FROM PATRICIA DAVIES, IN GOTEMBA, JAPAN

IT WAS too wet yesterday for his favourite blue suede shoes, but Masashi Ozaki, widely known as Jumbo, still stepped his way to a round of 66, six under par, on the first day of the Sumitomo Visa Masters at the Taiheiyoh club, near Gotemba, south of Tokyo.

Ozaki, the defending champion, is an avid Elvis fan — hand him a guitar at your peril — but having to wear a pair of black and white leather brogues did nothing to dampen his spirits, and he finished one shot ahead of his compatriot, Yoshinori Mizumaki, with the trio of Barry Lane, David Frost and Tze-Chung Chen a further shot behind.

Lane, the 33-year-old Englishman, did not drop a shot but was a little baffled by his score, which was essentially made by the three birdies he had in the first five holes. "I didn't feel I was swinging very well," he said, "It doesn't feel quite right, but I don't mind not feeling right when I shoot 68."

He has played here three times before and has yet to finish outside the top 11, proof that he loves the course, particularly the greens. "They're fantastic," he said. "They're like lightning, but the ball doesn't spin, so you know where to hit it to let it run." On the flight over here,

Lane persuaded British Airways to rent out the Ryder Cup video — designated for the return journey — and watched it for the first time. "They showed me hitting it into the water at the 18th," he said. "But I'm over it now."

Three up with five to play against Chip Beck, Lane lost. "I still think about it," he said. "I know where it went — on the 14th. I sort of eased up and thought, 'I've got him now'. That was absolutely fatal, but we don't play many matchplay events and perhaps I was just too relaxed."

Frost more than justified top billing. He was paired with Ozaki and Isao Aoki, the

giants of Japanese golf, who had nine birdies between them, while he had seven. He also had three bogeys. At the 11th, Ozaki had an eagle three, chipping in from 20 feet.

Sandy Lyle also chipped in for an eagle three, at the 3rd, but he putted poorly and was bitterly disappointed with his 73.

FIRST ROUND SCORES (Japan unless stated): 66: M Ozaki, 67: Y Mizumaki, 68: B Lane, 69: G Frost, 70: T Chen, 71: S Ozaki, 72: M Mizumaki, 73: S Ozaki, 74: T Chen, 75: S Ozaki, 76: M Mizumaki, 77: S Ozaki, 78: T Chen, 79: S Ozaki, 80: M Mizumaki, 81: S Ozaki, 82: T Chen, 83: S Ozaki, 84: M Mizumaki, 85: S Ozaki, 86: T Chen, 87: S Ozaki, 88: M Mizumaki, 89: S Ozaki, 90: T Chen, 91: S Ozaki, 92: M Mizumaki, 93: S Ozaki, 94: T Chen, 95: S Ozaki, 96: M Mizumaki, 97: S Ozaki, 98: T Chen, 99: S Ozaki, 100: M Mizumaki.

Irish make sound World Cup start

IRELAND made the best start of the four British Isles teams in the World Cup at Lake Nona Golf Club, Orlando, Florida yesterday.

After 13 holes, Ireland were two under par and joint fifth of the 32 teams, with Paul McGinley two shots under par and Ronan Rafferty level.

McGinley, starting at the 10th hole, was in fine form over this long course, claiming birdies at the 11th and 16th and pars at the other 11.

Scotland, with Sam Torrance three under and Colin Montgomerie two over, were in joint eighth place at one under par after 15 holes. Wales

were level par after ten holes and lying eleventh, with Ian Woosnam three over and Mark Mouland three under.

England made a bad start with Mark James struggling to the turn in a four-over-par 40. David Gifford was two under at the same stage to put England two over and give them a share of seventeenth place.

Australia and Germany shared the lead at six under. For Australia, Robert Allenby and Roger Davis were each three under after ten holes, for Germany, Bernhard Langer was four under and Sven Struver two under after 11.

Federation invites misery and mayhem down Mexico way



Clarke is helped after finishing the 10,000 metres

SOMETIME in the next four days, a decision to rank with the worst that international sport has had to bear is expected to be taken by the International Amateur Athletic Federation (IAAF), Mexico City, it seems, is about to be awarded the 1997 world athletics championships.

Twenty-five years ago, the Mexican capital turned stretcher carrying into an Olympic event. Its high altitude (7,300ft) brought gifts of gold to the Africans in races from 1,500 metres upwards but Ron Clarke, the outstanding distance runner of the period, was left gasping for oxygen and had to be helped from the track. He was one of many.

Harold Norpoth, the European record holder, managed only 3,000 metres of the 5,000 metres and Jim Ryan, the 1,500 metres world record holder, who was unbeaten at that distance for three years, finished second to Kip Keino, of Kenya. "That was the biggest injustice," Clarke says now. "Ryan was five seconds better than Keino at that stage of Keino's career."

As if the altitude was not reason

David Powell reports on an athletics showpiece that could become a farce

enough to convince the IAAF that its biennial showpiece should never go to Mexico City, the argument has moved on since 1968. With 21 million residents, Mexico City is one of the unhealthiest capitals on earth. Much of its population lives without access to sanitation, electricity or clean water. Pollution levels can be eight times higher than recommended United Nations limits. Ozone levels are among the highest recorded. Yet unless there is a change of heart, the IAAF will ignore the warnings this weekend.

The IAAF council is meeting in Mexico City from tomorrow until Monday and the only alternative candidate is Johannesburg, another altitude venue. A responsible IAAF would have ensured that a national federation backing a venue capable of staging fair competition was

among the bidders. In 1968, the African men were not the force they are now but they won the 1,500 metres, 5,000, 10,000, marathon and steeplechase, with medal sweeps in the 5,000 and 10,000. Ron Hill of Britain, did extraordinarily well to finish seventh in the 10,000 metres. The track and infield resembled a battlefield as oxygen was administered and stretcher bearers rushed on and off. "It was hideous and distressing from first to last," *Athletics Weekly* reported. Its headline read "The Schizophrenic Games" because, not only were the distance events a farrago, but there was a succession of sprint world records. The thin air, purgatory for the lowland distance runners, was paradise for the fast men.

"Anyone born at sea level has no chance at altitude," Clarke said. "Any official who approves Mexico City does not know anything about track and field. I thought that had to be after '68. It is beyond belief they would do anything like this." Clarke is in daily contact with the fitness world, managing Cannons, a Lon-

don health club. "If you have that fierce determination to finish, I reckon you could kill yourself up there," he said.

Several leading sea-level athletes, Clarke included, went into decline after 1968 as the physical and psychological effects took their toll. Years later, Clarke needed a heart valve fitted, which he thinks may have stemmed from his experience in Mexico City. This wonderful athlete, who set a succession of world records, ran 90 seconds, as he recalls, for the last lap of the 10,000 metres. He finished sixth in 29min 44.8sec, two minutes slower than he had run in London six weeks earlier.

There is not a chief coach in Europe who is not horrified at the prospect of going to Mexico City," Frank Dick, president of the European Athletics Coaches' Association, said. "It would put 98 per cent of the world's athletic population at a disadvantage."

Even sprinters, Dick argues, would not be competing on equal terms because those from the lowland countries would be more ex-

posed to altitude sickness while living there. On acclimatisation, Dick envisages financial difficulties. "The budgeting implications are huge," he said. "You cannot send athletes to compete at altitude without giving them the chance to prepare at altitude. Is the IAAF going to compensate for the cost?"

Why, the IAAF was asked, is it even considering such a contentious venue? Istvan Gyulai, its secretary, gave this reply: "The memories of the Mexico Olympics are great and I do not recall anything which would tell me never to hold championships there again. I remember great races and great events."

The level of fitness in athletes has improved a lot since those times. If they know in due time of a world championships at altitude, they will adapt to cope. It would be a chance to organise a world championships in another continent, which is the duty of the federation. The part of Mexico City where the championships would be held, if they go there, is not one of the polluted areas."

Thin air, thin excuses.

What's the score if you're looking for a 4 Wheel Drive?

THE SUNDAY TIMES

2 2 8

THE DAILY TELEGRAPH

2 6

THE SUNDAY TIMES

MOTORING

Last weekend The Sunday Times featured over 200 more 4 Wheel Drive vehicles for sale than Saturday's Telegraph. So where are you more likely to find your quality used car this weekend?

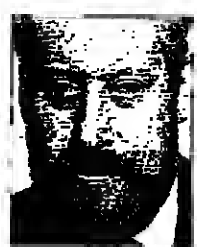
مَكَزًا مِنَ الْأَصْلِ

Flannelled folly needs shot of subtlety

Stumps at Aston Villa is a vast indoor pleasure-dome where they are staging an indoor cricket knockout competition. Michael Gattling is there, and Asif Din and Gladstone Small... disproving Kipling's contention about nonconformity.

I was there because the press handout promised "nonstop action with tremendous atmosphere". Some restaurant menus describe dishes as "succulent delicious manifestation of our master chef's consummate skill". That puts me off also. I believe that appreciation should come from the consumer rather than the provider; successful PR has to be pitched a fraction below delivery.

Stumps indoor cricket is available to all at £56 plus VAT for 75 minutes. For this sum you get a pitch within a net, an umpire-scoring-announcer who sits above the wicket, shin pads and wicket-keeper's gloves, bats and hard, light yellow compo cricket balls with proper



FREUD ON FRIDAY

seams for two teams of eight players.

I watched a man who had never bowled before throw balls at a man who held his bat the way people hold umbrellas.

Along the walls of the building is a pin table, a video game, a Coca-Cola machine, one for Cadbury's chocolate and another marked Lucozade bearing a "Not for use" notice: whether this refers to the machine or the product is not clear.

At the far end of this

Xanadu is indoor football, indoor basketball, indoor netball and, had I looked harder, I might have discovered a whole range of other activities... but it was cricket I went to see. It was the cricket in respect of which they had invited the press and provided drinks and sandwiches.

Let me try to explain how it works:

You have this 30-yard long, seven-yard wide by 15-foot high net with a matted floor. There are two wickets, one for batting at, the other for throwing down for run-outs. Each wicket has three independent stumps which, when broken, move in mysterious ways like a three-armed semaphorette.

The fielding side has a bowler, a wicketkeeper, two men on the leg and three on the off also a sort of bowler's mate who shines the ball, passes it to the bowler and stays behind as his man follows up.

Each of the eight players bowls two eight-ball overs;

each of the four pairs of batsmen are "in" for 32 balls and score runs for hitting the side or end netting (the roof netting is ignored) and more runs for crossing halfway down the wicket.

To run out a man making for the halfway crease you have to break the bowler's wicket ten yards on and rely on the umpire for judgement... the umpire being the man who sits above the batsman's wicket and doubles as operator of the electronic scoreboard and announcer.

He has the word UMPIRE written along his left trouser leg — the final E being the letter closest to his groin. Some players have INDOOR CRICKET written on their left trouser legs but the other way up — the legend ending by their ankles. I expect there's a good reason for this.

Each time a wicket falls — the most frequent dismissal is run out — the batting side loses five runs, so that games have ended with one team

beating another by the lesser of two minus scores. Teams have to bat their allotted overs, for a side that looks as if it is coasting to victory could lose 50 runs in the last ten balls.

On Wednesday, Gattling's County Stars took on the England international side which won the 1993 indoor test series in South Africa. Gattling's men lost.

There was much to admire the wicketkeeper standing up to Gladstone Small — mainly because there is insufficient room behind the wicket to stand back; the pace achieved by bowlers with a minimal run-up; the courage of the close fielders, when anyone with any sense would find good reasons for remembering an important appointment.

The chairman of Stumps explained that indoor cricket was a wonderful way of getting fit for the outdoor season. I would suggest that a gymnasium, preferably one without overhead cameras, is a more apposite method.

What seems to me to harm the game we love is that strength, not subtlety, is rewarded. To score runs you have to belt the ball for all you're worth — ideally over the bowler's head straight into the end netting for six. A defensive shot gets you nowhere, a late cut is a waste of time and there's insufficient space in the net to place a ball for a quick single.

Indoor cricket is for those able to bowl fast from a limited run, hit huge straight thumps off the front foot and flinch hardly at all when hit about the person by a ball travelling at around 125 miles an hour.

Arthur Wellard, of Somerset, would have been worth his weight in gold, and there was a lot of Arthur Wellard.

In a poem called *The Islanders*, Kipling wrote of flannelled fools at the wicket. Perhaps our poet laureate will update this — though "tracksuited mercenaries" is not a phrase that lends itself easily to verse.

Taylor and Higgins renew bitter rivalry

By PHIL YATES

ONE of the most acrimonious rivalries in sport is renewed today when Dennis Taylor and Alex Higgins meet in the first round of the Royal Liver Assurance United Kingdom snooker championship at the Guild Hall, Preston.

Taylor and Higgins became folk heroes in their native Northern Ireland by winning the world championship, but they have little else in common. While Taylor is known for his affability, Higgins has a well-deserved reputation for controversy.

Nor do they much care for each other. During the World Team Cup final at Bournemouth in March 1990 — which Northern Ireland lost to Canada — Higgins threatened to have Taylor "shot".

That outburst, plus the small matter of punching a press officer after his elimination

that the result today will be decided by the ability to cope with the kind of tension that can only be generated by such a grudge match.

It would be a stern examination of character if Higgins and Taylor were still at the height of their powers. As they have wrestled unsuccessfully with confidence and technique-related problems for the last couple of years, it will be an ordeal.

Higgins is at 56th in the provisional standings and has not reached the last 32 of a world ranking tournament since the 1991 Dubai Classic while Taylor, who has been an ever-present member of the top 16 since the ranking system was introduced in 1976, is in danger of losing his place among the game's elite.

Taylor was beaten 5-1 by Marcus Campbell, the world No 186, in the first round of the Skoda Grand Prix last month. An excessive amount of up-and-down movement on important shots proved his undoing, as it has on numerous occasions during his decline.

"It's not as important that I beat Alex for who he is as it is just to get through," Taylor, who has lost the opening match of the other four events he has contested this season, said.

Higgins also lost 5-1 in the last 64 of the grand prix, to Tony Knowles, and his general bitterness was obvious when he delivered a rambling discourse to the press, even though he was not requested to conduct any interviews.

Jimmy White, the title holder, has not made the auspicious start to the season and will need a significant improvement to stand a realistic chance of a successful defence.

Although Stephen Hendry was beaten by Peter Ebdon, the eventual winner, in the last 32 of the grand prix, he is rightly considered a strong favourite to collect the £70,000 first prize. A bout of influenza and swollen glands did not help his cause against Ebdon, but, fully fit, the Scot looked invincible in overwhelming Steve Davis 9-3 in the Dubai Classic final five weeks ago.

tion from the world championship the following month, were among a number of disciplinary infringements which resulted in Higgins being suspended from professional competition for the 1990-91 season by the World Professional Billiards and Snooker Association.

Taylor beat Higgins 5-2 in the first round of the Benson and Hedges Irish Masters three weeks after the World Team Cup incident, but they have not faced each other since and a great deal of bad blood remains.

"It wasn't just the fact that Alex threatened to have me shot, he said other personal things which really hurt me," Taylor said recently. "I haven't spoken to him since. If Alex hasn't got anything good to say about people he shouldn't say anything at all."

Their history, a capacity crowd and the miserable form of both players will ensure



Po hits a backhand drive on her way to victory over Sukova in Philadelphia. Photograph: Carol Francavilla

Ivanisevic keeps target in sights

By OUR SPORTS STAFF

GORAN Ivanisevic moved smoothly into the quarter-finals of the European Community Championships in Antwerp yesterday, bringing him a step closer to a berth in the world tennis championships next week.

Ivanisevic, of Croatia, the world No 9, overcame Johan Van Herck, of Belgium, 6-3, 6-3, and in the last eight will play the winner of the match between Cedric Pioline, of France, and Marc Gollner, of Germany.

On another good day for Swedish players, Magnus Gustafsson came from behind to beat Brett Steven, of New Zealand, 2-6, 6-4, 6-2, and

Magnus Larsson overwhelmed Richard Matuszewski, of the United States, 6-3, 6-2, to reach the quarter-finals.

Already through to the last eight is the top seed, Pete Sampras, who will play another Swede, Nicklas Kulti.

Ivanisevic's win improves his chances of qualifying for next week's world championships in Frankfurt, which bring together the top eight players of the season. Apart from Ivanisevic, Boris Becker and Pioline are still in the running for the last place.

Seven of the eight places have already been clinched by Sampras, Jim Courier, Sergi Bruguera, Michael Stich, Stefan Edberg, Andrei

Medvedev and Michael Chang.

Stefi Graf continued her march towards her twelfth successive tournament final with a 6-1, 6-3 victory over Pam Shriver in the second round of the Virginia Slims of Philadelphia. The world No 1 won her 43rd consecutive tour match with ease but Helena Sukova, runner-up to Graf at the US Open, suffered a surprise defeat by Kimberly Po.

Po, the world No 60, broke Sukova's service three times in the second set to triumph 7-6, 6-4. Conchita Martinez, of Spain, the No 2 seed, survived a strong challenge from Lisa Raymond to win 4-6, 6-3, 7-5.

In the LTA women's satellite tournament at Swindon, Emily Bond overwhelmed the second seed, Ginny Humphreys-Davies, 6-2, 6-1, to reach the semi-finals.

The 20-year-old from Gloucestershire needed only 62 minutes to see off her Cambridge opponent, who had to withdraw from last week's national championships with a back injury.

Bond, who lives in Belgium, now faces Eva Borras, of Spain, who beat the sixth seed, Shirl-Ann Siddall, 7-5, 6-3. Caroline Billingham lost 6-4, 6-0 to Florence Boucard, of France. Boucard takes on Svetlana Parhomenko in today's other semi-final.

Results, page 43

Atherton declares optimism

By MICHAEL HENDERSON

MICHAEL Atherton yesterday expressed total confidence in the players he had helped to select for England's attempt this winter to win a series in the Caribbean for the first time since 1968 and said that they had a great opportunity to make a name for themselves.

Addressing the Sports Writers' Association in London, the England captain said: "The fact that this is the hardest of all tours presents the players with the biggest opportunity they could wish for. We have the chance to make a name for ourselves."

Half the battle, he said, was getting players to believe that West Indies, who have not lost a series to anyone since New Zealand beat them in 1980,

were vulnerable. "People have to convince themselves they are good enough to win out there. A number of our players were in the side which won the first Test four years ago and the younger ones also have the experience of beating them, which cannot be said of Gower and Gattling."

Atherton tempered his optimism with shrewdness. So long as he is captain, he is fairly clear, shirkers need not apply. "Players will not get too many chances. Playing for England should mean everything and if they do not share that view they will get short shrift from me."

Chris Lewis, who is lucky to be on the tour after a disappointing summer with Nottinghamshire, can still emerge

as a key Test player, Atherton feels. "Chris realises that he is running out of chances, but I think that being dropped last summer will motivate him. I feel he has a lot to offer, particularly as an out-and-out fast bowler."

Atherton hopes that England will follow the Australian example of shaping a team with patience. "We have picked a squad of players not just for this tour but with the idea of building a good team in years to come," he said.

Match referees have now been confirmed for five forthcoming Test series by the International Cricket Council.

Beyer seeks world calendar

By CRAIG LORD

ANGERED by a sub-standard entry at the European Sprint Championships at Galeshead, Harm Beyer, secretary of the European Swimming League, has demanded that Fina, the international governing body, arrange a world calendar conference for no later than February to set in stone competition dates for the next eight years.

Beyer, of Germany, lays the blame for the absence of the likes of Mark Foster, of Britain, and Franziska von Almsick, of Germany, the world record holders at 50 metres freestyle, from Galeshead's Felling Pool, where qualifying heats were raced last night, squarely at Fina's feet, even though he is a member of the Fina bureau.

He said Fina had announced it would stage a short-course world championship in the winter without discussion with the European league after noticing how successful, in terms of entries and world record swims, the annual European sprint event, started in 1991, had become.

By holding the inaugural short-course world championships at Palma, Majorca, in early December, Fina had risked weakening the entry at both the world and European events, given that swimmers find it difficult to peak twice within three weeks.

After calling Gunnar Werner, secretary of Fina, in Sweden, Beyer said: "I demand from Fina that they call a meeting with representatives

from the five continents and that we establish a long-term — eight years for me, or a minimum four years — international calendar to place the local swimming events in such a way that they are not competitive with one another."

Werner, said Beyer, had agreed that the pressure to hold a world calendar conference was "now bigger than before", and had given assurances that he would "try to find an arrangement that we meet very early".

As leaders in their respective events in the Commonwealth rankings, Nick Gillingham, Paul Palmer, Martin Harris and Mark Foster have earned pre-selection for England for the Commonwealth Games next year.

SPORT IN BRIEF

Conner's sail cloth sparks dispute

AS CREWS prepare for the start tomorrow of the second stage of the Whitbread Round the World Race, from Punta del Este to Fremantle, a dispute has developed over high-modulus sails used by Dennis Conner's American yacht, Winston (Barry Pickdall writes).

Brad Butterworth, Conner's co-skipper, confirmed yesterday that the race committee had revoked measure certificates on two of Winston's sails made by Vectran, a specialist sail cloth manufactured by North Sails. "I am not happy with the decision, but there is not much we can do about it now until Fremantle," he said.

The Winston team is particularly aggrieved because they went to the lengths of asking, and getting permission from, the race organisers, to have the \$10,000 sails made from the new high-modulus polyester-type material. The two sails were also checked and accepted by measurers before the start.

Schwer stays home

BOXING: The European championship is no longer of first importance to Billy Schwer (Srikumar Sen writes). The Linton lightweight regained the British and Commonwealth titles by beating Paul Burke, of Preston, at Watford on Wednesday, but Mickey Duff, his manager, said Schwer would challenge for the European title only in Britain.

If Duff is unsuccessful in persuading Jean Baptiste Mendy, of France, to come to Britain, Schwer will concentrate on defending his two titles — there is plenty of good opposition at home — and gather enough experience to challenge for the world title in about 18 months time. "If I get a chance to make the European title in Britain, I'll make it," Duff said. "If I have to go abroad, I might take my time."

England pair struggle

BOWLS: Tony Allcock, the world champion, and his England partner, John Bell, must wait to discover if they will progress in the Hong Kong Classic pairs event in Kowloon. They have secured only two wins from six matches, leaving them in seventh place out of ten in their section. With the top four going forward to the quarter-final knockout stages tomorrow, England must win their three concluding matches. The Welsh pair, Robert Weale and Will Thomas, and the champions, Alex Marshall and Graham Robertson, from Scotland, both have four wins from six matches.

Fours result amended

ROWING: Wade Hall-Craggs was a happy man yesterday after the results of the Fours Head last Sunday were changed. Hall-Craggs was the stroke of the Tideway Scullers quad, which was originally announced as trailing 19 seconds behind the Leander coxless four containing Steve Redgrave and Matthew Pinsent. Checks of the manual and computer timing by Jim Hopkins, the race chairman, revealed that three top quads, including Tideway Scullers, had been given incorrectly slow times. The revised results place the Scullers first, five seconds ahead of Leander.

Tyson's future in doubt

BOXING: Mike Tyson, the former undisputed world heavyweight champion, has said he may not resume his career when he is released from prison. Tyson, speaking in the Indiana jail where he is serving a six-year sentence for rape, said there was a possibility that his career is "all over". In an interview to be televised by ITV Sport early on Sunday, he said his main concern was to clear his name. Tyson said: "When I get out of here, I might be 28 or 29. What can I do? Who can I fight? There has to be more to life than people saying 'we need you back in the ring'."

Sunday change

CRICKET: A Test and County Cricket Board working party has recommended that the Sunday League returns from a 50-over to a 40-over format. The longer form of the competition, introduced as the Axa Equity and Law League earlier this year, has proved unpopular with both players — who feel it is too long — and spectators — many of whom object to its earlier start (noon rather than 2pm). A decision will be taken in December. Geoff Arnold has resigned after nine years on the coaching staff of Surrey, who plan to appoint a director of cricket and a new coach.



Worse things happen ashore

Disaster at sea is something we all learn to live with. But worse things can happen ashore — when sailors grow old, become disabled, fall on hard times, leave widows to be cared for and children to be educated.

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Tennis ready for rock-and-roll remedy



Luke Jensen: flashy

By STUART JONES
TENNIS CORRESPONDENT

READY or not, "rock and roll tennis" may soon be upon us. Spectators at Wimbledon may be encouraged to sing along to amplified choruses of Queen's *We Are The Champions*, indulge in Mexican waves and follow the chants of cheerleaders twiddling pom poms. And not just in the changeovers. All this could soon be taking place during rallies, too.

The Association of Tennis Professionals (ATP) is to launch the world championship in Frankfurt next week with an open forum. The three subjects to be discussed on Monday are television presentation, the future growth of the game — and spectator

involvement. Among the speakers will be an executive producer of MTV, the satellite channel devoted to pop music, and the Jensen brothers, Luke and Murphy, the French doubles champions who are best known as purveyors of the flashy, designer-dressed style of "rock and roll tennis".

The Jensens are already challenging the popularity of their equally flamboyant compatriot, Andre Agassi. They regularly appear in magazines across the world but not just tennis publications. Recently, they commanded a spread in *Rolling Stone* magazine.

"They are creating a phenomenon," Peter Alfano, the ATP's communications director, said. "Their coverage far outweighs their success." The

Jensens have been invited to pass on their wisdom to an audience of players, coaches and representatives of governing bodies, companies and the media.

The forum, entitled "Fans Experience" is to investigate the problem giving most cause for concern in the men's game. Attendances have risen, prize-money has increased and television coverage is wider. In one area, though, there is no growth. Although there should be a natural affiliation to competitors barely out of their teens, the sport is not attracting young spectators.

One of the solutions, according to the ATP, might be the promotion of audience participation. "Should a tennis crowd be hushed, polite and

genteel or should it be as in football?" Alfano asks. The same question is to be raised in Frankfurt.

Nor does that promise to be the only controversial topic to be discussed under the informal chairmanship of a colourful character, Ion Tiriac, supposedly a moderator for the occasion but who is not averse to expressing strong views. Another proposal will urge manufacturers to design clothing specifically to be more attractive to youths.

The talks, however volatile, are likely to be as inconclusive as in the past. With the addition of a tournament in Bogota next year, the ATP tour will visit 87 venues in 39 countries. "There are 39 ways of doing things," as Alfano

puts it. "It is difficult to get a clear majority." Two forums were held last year. The first examined the increasing speed of the game yet a survey revealed later, surprisingly, that spectators are infatuated with power. One of the main attractions was the figure displayed by the radar gun measuring services.

The second analysed the electronic line system. Ludi-ciously, it was to have been used for the first time at the US Open at Flushing Meadows in September. The organisers belatedly recognised the folly of introducing the experiment in a grand slam event without sufficient trials.

"These forums are designed to sample opinion and give the ATP direction," Alfano ex-

plained. "They raise some ideas and shoot others down. We feel the pulse. Any decision has to have an input from the fans, otherwise we would be operating in a vacuum."

Nevertheless, it is ominously significant that the ATP believes that self-confessed proponents of "rock and roll tennis" and television producers should be the chosen presenters in Frankfurt. Fears are also being raised within the women's game that principles may be sacrificed for the sake of the dollar.

The Americans continue to dominate the organisation of tennis, even though the geographical balance has shifted in the last few years. More and bigger tournaments are now held in Europe. Even the ATP

world championship, which used to be staged in New York City, is now in Germany.

Ask anyone — player, coach, official, spectator or media representative — which is the worst tournament in the world and they will respond with one voice: the US Open, which represents the epitome of how an event should not be run.

The best tournament? By common agreement, it is Wimbledon, because of its history, tradition and decorum. Will the officials of the ATP alter the ambience with customs that do not always carry their appeal across the Atlantic? Perhaps they should take a look at the fate of EuroDisney.

Ivanisevic on target, page 46

Uefa hold back on Cantona penalty

By PETER BALL AND KEITH PIKE

ERIC Cantona, the Manchester United forward, may escape severe punishment for his conduct during and after the European Cup tie against Galatasaray in Istanbul last Wednesday.

The disciplinary committee of Uefa, European football's governing body, was meeting in Zurich yesterday to decide what action to take against the Frenchman, and although the outcome is not scheduled to be made public until lunchtime today, the indications are that Cantona's worst fears will not be realised. A ban on him representing his country next week has already been discounted.

Cantona was sent off by Kurt Rothlisberger, the Swiss referee, for comments and gestures he is alleged to have made to him near the end of the match in Turkey, a goalless draw which led to United's elimination from the European Cup.

The Uefa committee was considering the reports of Rothlisberger and its delegate at the match, and was also examining comments Cantona is alleged to have made subsequently in a television interview and in *L'Equipe*, the French sports newspaper, that quoted him as suggesting that some referees in European matches may have been bribed.

Cantona had denied making the accusations, but had been charged with "serious misconduct" and feared a lengthy suspension from United's future European campaigns, and a possible international ban.

However, an unnamed Uefa spokesman said yesterday that Cantona's previous good conduct at international level, and the fact that he had not insulted Rothlisberger directly, meant it was likely the committee would treat him leniently.

Rene Eberle, a spokesman for the disciplinary committee, also confirmed that Cantona would be able to play for France in their decisive World Cup qualifying tie against Bulgaria in Paris next Wednesday. "He can play, that's no problem," Eberle said. "The decision from Uefa will have no impact on his qualification for the World Cup."

Any international ban would have to be imposed by Fifa, the world governing body. "This case will not be transferred to Fifa," Eberle said.

Alex Ferguson, the Manchester United manager, yesterday defended Cantona. "I think sometimes in this country we try to destroy our heroes rather than appreciate them," Ferguson said.

"Last Wednesday he was trying so hard, and he got so frustrated because he saw all their tricks and all the things that were going on."

Ferguson insisted that Cantona had not made a two-fingered gesture to Rothlisberger, but had held finger and thumb together to indicate that the referee had given United nothing. On the expected ban, Ferguson said: "We expect the worst because they seem to want to protect referees rather than human life. We could have had someone killed out there when you hear the stories of what happened to our supporters."

Speaking at the launch of his book *Just Champion*, Ferguson said that the signing of Cantona from Leeds United for £12 million in November last year had been instrumental in winning the championship. At that price "he has to be the greatest bargain in the modern game", Ferguson said. "He would get in my world XI from my time in the game. We should nurture talent like that rather than trying to knock it down."



Barry Lane, the Ryder Cup player, keeps the leaders in sight on his way to a first round 68 in the Sumitomo Masters tournament in Japan yesterday. Report, page 44

Coe calls for funding changes

SEBASTIAN Coe yesterday urged the government to start direct funding of elite competitors, warning that otherwise Britain would fall further behind other countries in the Olympic sports.

"We are dropping below what I know is necessary to win Olympic medals," Coe said. The winner of two Olympic 1500 metres titles also called for a structural revolution, with the minister for sport having executive powers and a budget, instead of handing over money to the Sports Council.

He regretted that Britain was "not much further down the road" than in 1984, when

he carried out a review for the Sports Council of the preparation of leading competitors for the Los Angeles Games.

"For far too long excellence has been achieved on the cheap and on an ad hoc basis. It is no good Britain harbouring aspirations to stage the Olympic Games without proper funding of the competitors."

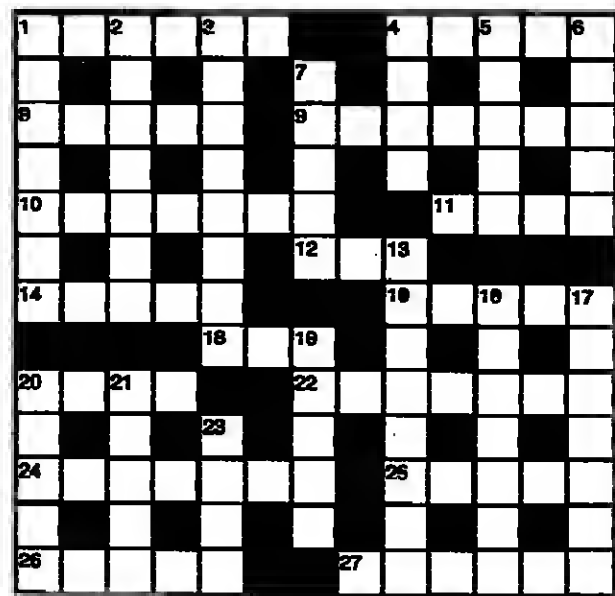
The Conservative MP for Falmouth and Camborne, who was addressing the annual conference of Business in Sport and Leisure in London, said that it was important to dismiss the belief that competitors only participated in the Olympic

Games for money. Coe said that when he was asked to produce the report in 1984, he found that the weightlifters had paid for their own equipment and that the six members of the eight-man boxing team who were unemployed had their benefit stopped while they were at the Games because they were regarded as being on holiday.

"Before the last Winter Olympics, Wilf O'Reilly [the favourite for the short-track skating event] had been sleeping on a friend's floor for six weeks because he could not afford his own rent while preparing for the Games," Coe, a former vice-chair-

man of the Sports Council, said that British sport needs "to think about a strategy. We may now be too far out of kilter in the balance between participation and excellence. This may not be politically correct. However, all the participation funding, in isolation, will produce very little."

Derek Casey, the acting director general of the Sports Council, said that progress had been made since Coe produced his Olympic review. "However, I agree that there should be greater support for individual athletes, not only financially but also for personal development and their role after competition."



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Just released for Christmas: The Times Crosswords — Book 17. The Times Concise Crosswords — Book 5. The Sunday Times Crosswords — Book 12. £4.25 each.

TIMES TWO
CROSSWORD

No 11

ACROSS

- 1 Savoury morsel (6)
- 4 Twig broom (5)
- 5 Alpine province (5)
- 8 Endure to end (4,3)
- 10 Top game (7)
- 11 Loving concern (4)
- 12 Light sponge (3)
- 14 Bequeath (5)
- 15 Keep away from (5)
- 18 Mug (3)
- 20 Wise man (4)
- 22 Burning (7)
- 24 Follower of Wydlif (7)
- 25 Permitted (5)
- 26 Awkward; risky (5)
- 27 Grazing area (6)

DOWN

- 1 Fortress (7)
- 2 The ultimate, for Buddhist (7)
- 3 Buttonless knitwear (8)
- 4 Play for charity (4)
- 5 People and language of Zimbabwe (5)
- 6 Bishop's headress (5)
- 7 Inundation (5)
- 13 Old French prison (8)
- 16 Indebted (7)
- 17 10th-century N and E England (7)
- 19 Sydney beach (5)
- 20 Vegetable for eating raw (5)
- 21 Ice-cold (5)
- 23 New-born (4)

SOLUTION TO NO 10

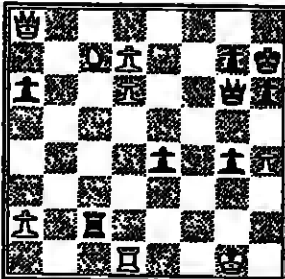
ACROSS: 1 Withdrawal 8 Nakedly 9 Lyric 10 Huff
11 Compiler 13 Heron 14 Chine 16 Birthday 17 Kne
20 Lodge 21 Sapling 22 Adam and Eve

DOWN: 1 Winch 2 Take for a ride 3 Dude 4 Anyhow 5 All-spice 6 Brilliantine 7 Scarce 12 In the end 13 Hobble
15 Balsam 18 Eagle 19 Spin

WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene

This position is a variation from the game Short - Kasparov, Times World Championship, game 14. White has an extra piece and two pawns on the verge of queening, but these extra forces are doing nothing to defend his king. How can Black force mate?



Solution, page 43
Raymond Keene, page 11

WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

HALIEUTICS

- a. Fishing
- b. Interpretation by question
- c. Study of chance

IDIOCRASY

- a. Rule by idiots
- b. Peculiarity
- c. Personal choice

TORPLE

- a. Torpid and lazy
- b. To die
- c. The pigmy tortoise

UNGULATA

- a. Virginia creeper
- b. Without a gullet
- c. Having hooves

Answers on page 43

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